

SOCCER

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WHO SCORES WINS !!



ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 33

TABLE

TOTAL

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	60	33	17	9	7	58	35
Melbourne Knights	59	33	17	8	8	50	28
UTS Olympic	59	33	17	8	8	55	41
Brisbane Strikers	57	33	17	6	10	54	35
Adelaide City	54	33	15	9	9	65	40
Sydney United	54	33	14	12	7	47	33
West Adelaide	53	33	16	5	12	49	43
South Melbourne	46	33	14	4	15	50	56
Canberra Cosmos	35	33	8	11	14	48	61
Morwell Falcons	35	33	9	8	16	35	65
Wollongong City	20	33	5	5	23	31	63
Newcastle Breakers	17	33	4	5	24	35	77

HOME

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	17	11	4	2	37	19
Melbourne Knights	16	10	3	3	25	7
UTS Olympic	17	12	4	1	30	13
Brisbane Strikers	16	12	3	1	45	12
Adelaide City	17	9	4	4	39	15
Sydney United	16	9	3	4	29	15
West Adelaide	16	11	1	4	25	16
South Melbourne	17	10	3	4	34	23
Canberra Cosmos	17	6	7	4	28	20
Morwell Falcons	16	6	5	5	19	22
Wollongong City	17	3	3	11	18	28
Newcastle Breakers	17	3	5	9	25	38

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	16	6	5	5	21	16
Melbourne Knights	17	7	5	5	25	21
UTS Olympic	16	5	4	7	25	28
Brisbane Strikers	17	5	3	9	9	23
Adelaide City	16	6	5	5	26	25
Sydney United	17	5	9	3	18	18
West Adelaide	17	5	4	8	24	27
South Melbourne	16	4	1	11	16	33
Canberra Cosmos	16	2	4	10	20	41
Morwell Falcons	17	3	3	11	16	43
Wollongong City	16	2	2	12	13	35
Newcastle Breakers	16	1	0	15	10	39

W WIN 3 Points - D DRAW 1 Points - L LOSS 0

RESULTS

ADELAIDE CITY 1

Armour (44)

SYDNEY UNITED 0



MARCONI FAIRFIELD 4

Maloney (4 & 79) Renaud (3) Awaritefe (31)

ADELAIDE CITY 1

Tobin (43pen)



CROWDS (After Rd 33)

SEASON BEST: 13,956 - South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9
ROUND 33 BEST: UTS Olympic v Brisbane Strikers 9,324 TOTAL ROUND 33: 37,279
SEASON TOTAL: 859,732. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,342

SPECIAL FEATURE

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL

PREVIEW

JUVENTUS

V

AJAX AMSTERDAM (IN ROME)

p. 23

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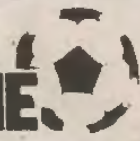
Brad Maloney (Marconi Fairfield)

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Player of the Year

SPORTSCENE

Australia's Olympic team downs USA



MARK VIDUKA-Australia's 'V'-Bomber.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

MARK VIDUKA, Australia's giant targetman, came on in the second half to substitute striker Paul Agostino, and promptly helped himself to a brace of goals to lift our Olympic team to a sound 0-2 win last night

over the Olympic host nation played at Indianapolis.

The Australian side suffered minor knocks to wide midfielders Goran Lozanovski and Ante Moric forcing assistant coach Les Scheinflug to replace them as a precaution with Luke Casserly and Ross Aloisi.

Scheinflug made a total of five substitutions also bringing on Brad Hassell, Robbie Enes and Viduka.

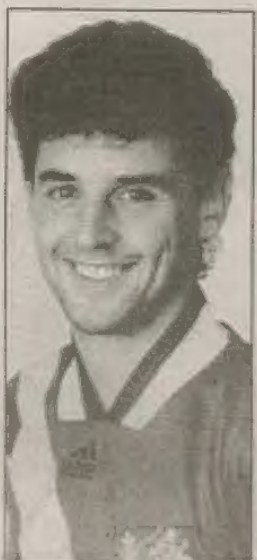
Viduka's strikes hit the target in the 52nd and 57th minutes to have the USA side struggling.

Australia's line-up yesterday against the USA Olympic team was:

Goalkeeper: Juric.
Sweeper: Muscat.
Twin-Markers: Babic and Foxe.

Midfield: Lozanovski (Casserly), Mendez (Enes), Tsekenis, Moric (Aloisi), Tiatto.

Strikers: Spiteri (Hassell), Agostino (Viduka 46th).



Kevin Muscat: Olympic team captain.

England-bound Trajanovski our player of the year

BY JOHN ECONOMOS.

KRIS TRAJANOVSKI, Sydney Olympic's 24 year old ace-goalscorer, is about to experience one of the most exciting week's of his life.

Firstly, Trajanovski was able to stave off a late, nail-biting challenge by fellow high profile strikers Damian Mori and Frank Farina, to pip him for this season's 'ABSW-Pascoe Vale-Player Of The Year' award.

As well as receiving the Pascoe Vale trophy, the dynamic Sydney striker also scored a cash prize of \$500.

As an added bonus, Kris will be approached later this week with an offer to go to England and trial with a former giant club, who are on the verge of returning to former glories.

The hard-working Olympic striker finished the season as the Ericsson League's joint-second top goalscorer with 19 goals, together with the Brisbane Strikers' flying Frank Farina.

When contacted last night by ABSW to inform him of his latest achievement, the always happy-go-lucky Kris told us: "I had no idea I was anywhere near the lead of ABSW's competition.

"This has topped off a great season for me and I'd like to thank all the Olympic boys who helped me out during the season as well as the Olympic coaching staff of David Ratchliffe and Steve Darby", ended a very jubilant Trajanovski.

A full profile on Kris appears on page 4 of this week's ABSW.

Final list of top point scorers were:

TRAJANOVSKI-Kris	26
FARINA-Frank	25
MORI-Damian	25
POPOVIC-Tony	23
TAPAI-Ermic	20
BINGLEY-Matthew	18
HUNTER-Alan	18

TRIMBOLI-Paul	18
TSEKINIS-Jimmy	18
IVANOVIC-Milan	16
MARTH-Andrew	16
MUSITANO-Michael	16
HARPER-Andrew	15
HASSELL-Bradley	15
HOOKE-ROBBIE	15
PONDELJAK-Tommy	15



KRIS TRAJANOVSKI: Winner of the 1995-96 'ABSW-Pascoe Vale' award.

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DATES OF CLINICS

QUEENSLAND

24-28 JUNE

N.NSW

1-5 JULY

CANBERRA

1-5 JULY

SYDNEY

8-12 JULY

MELBOURNE

8-12 JULY

PERTH

15-18 JULY

ADELAIDE

8-12 JULY

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Alan Kelly Sheffield United/Ireland
Frank Lampard West Ham/England
Stan Lazaridis West Ham/Australia
Mick Lyons Everton/England
Gary Mabbutt Tottenham H/England
Rodney Marsh QPR/Man./C.England
Ted McMinn Rangers/Scotland
Harry Redknapp West Ham/England
Jamie Redknapp Liverpool/England
Cyril Regis Manchester United/England
Les Sealey Man. Utd/West Ham/England
Robbie Slater West Ham/Australia
Alan Smith Arsenal/England
Carl Veart Crystal Palace/Australia
Neil Webb Notts For./England
Norman Whiteside Manchester United/Ireland
Rob Zabica Australia



Graham Arnold

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STAR PROFILE

Jamie Perin



Date of Birth: June 10th, 1974
(exactly 27 years to the day after my father John's birthday 1947.)

Birthplace: Adelaide.

Previous Clubs: Enfield Soccer Club and A.I.S.

Current Club: Adelaide City.

Position: Central midfielder.

Nickname: None.

Marital Status: Single.

Occupation: Student in Building Technology.

Best Aspect Of Your Game: Vision and thinking ability.

Most Difficult Opponent: "The Doctor" (Milan Ivanovic).

Most Impressive Local Player: Jason Petkovic.

Favourite Overseas Player: Eric Cantona.

Favourite Overseas Club: Manchester United and Juventus.

Euro '96 tip: France.

What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Discipline and communication skills.

Who Would You NOT Invite To Your Dinner Party: Rolf Harris.

Honours: South Australia's U/17s, AIS scholarship, U/20s Australia 1st camp.

Ambitions For 1996: To win the League with Adelaide City.

Ambitions After Retiring: To be healthy, enjoy life and coach.

Most Memorable Moment: Being part of Adelaide City's 1993-94 League championship winning team, being on bench.

Hobbies Outside Soccer: Golf and relaxing with all my friends.

Best Goal You've Seen Scored: All of Damian Mori's goals.

Favourite Food: My Mum's cooking.

Favourite Drink: Gatorade.

Car You Drive: Honda 1986 Integra.

Favourite TV Show: Seinfeld.

TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Days Of Our Lives.

Favourite Movie: Executive Decision.

Favourite Actor/Actress: Wesley Snipes, Jodie Foster, Dance.

Preferred Music: Dance.

Least Preferred Music: Country and Western plus Techno.

Favourite Comedian: Andrew Dice Clay.

Pet Hates: Smokers.

Special Advice To Young Players: Always train very hard and believe in your own ability.

Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Michael Jordan.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

GOOD OIL - GOOD OIL - GOOD OIL

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

THE ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT to be held tonight (Tuesday) in the Latrobe Theatre at The World Congress Centre in Melbourne kicking off at 6.30pm, sees four strikers out of the five candidates shooting for the "Players' Player of The Year" award (the "Warren Medal").

They are Damian Mori and Craig Foster (Adelaide City), Kris Trajanovski (Sydney Olympic), Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne) and Frank Farina (Brisbane Strikers).

If experience and class count for anything, (and if you have any faith left in the bookies), the smart money is signalling that there is a strong chance 'the Warren Medal' could shift from its current Melbourne address up to sunny Queensland.

The Melbourne Knights' giant goal-ace Mark Viduka won it last year.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@
'GOOD OIL' has it unofficially, that for once, the above coveted award could actually be presented tonight by the former Australian 1969 World Cup skipper himself, Johnny Warren, and NOT by a usually 'high-profile' Soccer official.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@



Johnny Warren:
Presenter of his namesake 'Medal'.

Whilst on the Awards theme, we again remind readers that the three contenders for the Under

21s Player of The Year award are striker Jimmy Tsekini (West Adelaide), playmaker Robbie Enes (Sydney United), and the explosive-paced right-midfielder, Tommy Pondeljak (Melbourne Knights).

The candidates for the 'Coach of The Year' award most pleasingly, are all former Australian World Cup players.

Johnny Perin 1969 (Adelaide City), Manfred Schaefer 1965, 69 and 74 (Marconi) and David Ratcliffe 1985 (Sydney Olympic).

Last year Adelaide City's living coaching



Zoran Matic: "Coach Of the Year" 1994-95

legend Zoran Matic scooped this prestigious 'Johnnie Walker' sponsored award.

The bookies however tell us that most of the smart-money is on a Sydney recipient.

THE REFEREE of the Year Award lines up Eddie Lennie, Eugene Brazzale and Brett Hugo to battle for the \$1,000 Samsung product prize.

'Good Oil's' money is on the 'third-eyebrow'.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@

'Linesman Of The Year' award has Gordon Dunstar, John Bowdler and Robert Eady all on the starting block.

Would you believe that finding the winner was sheer bedlam?

Two of the three 'flag-

lads' ended the season with identical performance stats.

The judges were faced with a nightmare task to ultimately split the two by the barest of bare margins to finally declare tonight's winner who will also receive \$1,000 worth of Samsung products.



Mirko Basic: Last season's Grand Final winning coach.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@
PETER GEE from the ABC will M.C. the Ericsson Awards tonight.

Who?

Peter was the ABC's co-presenter with John Kosmina when the Government-channel covered the National League.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@

TONIGHT's Ericsson League Awards will NOT be telecast as has been the case in previous years.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS last year prior to the Grand Final played Adelaide City four times and never won once.

But when the two met yet again for the final time at the Hindmarsh Stadium, Mirko Basic's Knights rode to a 2-0 victory over the 'Black and Whites'...So what you may ask?

Well this season Marconi has clashed five times with the current League champions scoring not a solitary win, but recording three draws plus two defeats.

Will history on Sunday repeat itself?

@@@@@@@@@@@@@



Two Adelaide City greats, the past and the present, Zoran Matic (left) in serious discussion with his coaching protegee, Johnny Perin. Both of these super sportsmen have played, then graduated to coach the "Black and Whites".

STAR PROFILE

Kris Trajanovski



Date of Birth: February 19th, 1972.

Birthplace: Geelong, Victoria.

Previous Clubs: Geelong, Sunshine George Cross, South Melbourne, A.I.S., Preston, South China (Hong Kong).

Current Club: Sydney Olympic.

Position: Goalscorer.

Nickname: "Traja".

Marital Status: Single.

Occupation: Development Officer.

Best Aspect Of Your Game: Holding up ball, acceleration, work-rate.

Most Difficult Opponent: Alex Tobin.

Most Impressive Local Player: Nick Meredith.

Favourite Overseas Player: Stan Collymore.

Favourite Overseas Club: A.C.Milan.

Euro 96 tip: Portugal.

What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Good communicator, easy for players to talk to.

Who Would You NOT Invite To Your Dinner Party: All my Sydney Olympic team-mates.

Honours: Victoria's U/14s, 15s, AIS, Australia's 1991 World Youth Championship team in Portugal.

Ambitions For 1996: To have won the League championship with Sydney Olympic and to play for Australia.

Ambitions After Retiring: To be always healthy and stay involved in soccer either as coach or development officer.

Most Memorable Moment: Scoring for Australia against Egypt in the World Youth Championships in 1991 Portugal.

Hobbies Outside Soccer: Golf.

Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Robbie Fowler's for Liverpool against Mark Bosnich of Aston Villa.

Favourite Food: Pasta.

Favourite Drink: Bourbon and Coke.

Car You Drive: Ford Probe.

Favourite TV Show: Seinfeld.

TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Pacific Drive.

Favourite Movie: Shawshank Redemption.

Favourite Actor/Actress: Bruce Willis and Terry Hatcher.

Preferred Music: Pearl Jam, The Doors and Rolling Stones.

Least Preferred Music: Country and Western.

Favourite Comedian: Jerry Seinfeld.

Pet Hates: All attractive women.

Special Advice To Young Players: Listen to coach & work hard.

Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Roberto Baggio.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

STAR PROFILE

Andy Harper



Date of Birth: May 13th, 1967.
Birthplace: Sydney.
Previous Clubs: Sydney City, Sydney Olympic and St George.
Current Club: Marconi.
Position: Sweeper, midfielder, striker.
Nickname: "Harps"
Marital Status: Yes to Rebecca.
Occupation: Teacher.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Physical prowess.
Most Difficult Opponent: 'Stabber' (Andrew Marth).
Most Impressive Local Player: Josip Simunic.
Favourite Overseas Player: Robbie Fowler.
Favourite Overseas Club: West Ham.
Nation To Win '96 Euro Championships: France.
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Must have good knowledge of game, communication skills and be able to manipulate people.
Who Would You NOT Invite To Your Dinner Party: Bank managers.
Honours: NSW 1990, 93,96.
Ambitions For 1996: To win the League.
Ambitions After Retiring: Graze cattle.
Most Memorable Moment: Getting married to Rebecca.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Reading, surfing and going bush.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Robbie Fowler's against Aston Villa.
Favourite Food: Anything put in front of me.
Favourite Drink: Anything.
Car You Drive: A 'bomb'.
Favourite TV Show: English Soccer.
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Baywatch.
Favourite Movie: Pootie Pie.
Favourite Actor/Actress: Robin Williams and Emma Thompson.
Preferred Music: Varied.
Least Preferred Music: Techno.
Favourite Comedian: Billy Connolly.
Pet Hates: Amateur attitudes.
Special Advice To Young Players: Follow your dream.
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: John Economos.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

GOOD OIL - GOOD OIL - GOOD OIL

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Some National League officials are already questioning their own wisdom of staging Sunday's Grand Final at Olympic Park.

The Bob Jane Stadium would have been a far better venue but unfortunately does not have the necessary seating accommodation.

The Melbourne Knights this season have averaged just over 4,000 per home League match.

With Marconi expected on Sunday to have very few travelling supporters, the Grand Final could prove to be a financial box-office disaster at Olympic Park whose capacity is now 22,000.

Last year's Grand Final between Adelaide City and the Melbourne Knights at Hindmarsh Stadium scored a jammed-packed and colourful 15,590 crowd after extra seating was urgently installed around this tight and most picturesque pitch.

The 1994 Grand Final between the same two sides, but played at Melbourne's far more spacious Olympic Park, drew only 13,500.

But let us NOT forget, this crowd had been most significantly boosted by some 3,500 travelling 'Black and White' supporters that made the eastern-crusade across the Victorian border via 22 buses, a motorcade involving well over 100 cars, plus hundreds by air and rail.

Sunday's Grand Final could see a crowd of barely 10,000.

@@@@@@@@@@@@ The Melbourne Knights on Sunday will field only a maximum of six players from last season's victorious 13 that took part in the Grand Final in Adelaide.

Never has a team facing back-to-back Grand Finals had such a massive turnover of playing-staff.

@@@@@@@@@@@@ ADELAIDE CITY'S 4-1 destruction last Sunday at the hands of Marconi in

the Preliminary Final in Sydney, was the worst recorded result in the 'Black and Whites' history of matches in finals.

In 30 finals matches, they have never been beaten by more than two goals.

@@@@@@@@@@@@ FOR SUNDAY'S Grand Final, SOCCER AUSTRALIA will use for the very first time the 'Sudden Death' in extra-time advocated by FIFA to decide the winner should the scores after normal time be deadlocked.

FIFA dreads the term 'Sudden Death', preferring to use the far less-painful 'Golden Goal' terminology.

@@@@@@@@@@@@



Andrew ('Stabber') Marth: The Knights' robust captain

ANDREW MARTH, The Knights' robust captain on Sunday will join an elite band of illustrious Grand final achievers.

The giant 'Stabber' will become only the fifth player to have played in five Grand Finals.

The historic elite are Sergio Melta, Alex Tobin and Joey Mullen (Adelaide City) and Ian Gray (Marconi).

@@@@@@@@@@@@ IAN DOBSON, the Melbourne Knights' coach could set some sort of unique Grand Final record should he select pacey striker Ollie Pondeljak in his starting line-

up.

The Knights would thus field two sets of brothers, the Pondeljaks (attacking right midfielder-Tommy and striker Ollie) plus the Cervinskis (centre-back David and striker Adrian).



Ollie Pondeljak: Knight's Striker

@@@@@@@@@@@@ MICK HICKMAN, the only man to have piloted the volatile Sydney Olympic to its first, (and still only), national championship success six years ago, is back in town. 'Hickey' arrived back in Australia last week from England for a short holiday with his family.

The urbane Englishman currently employed at Molineux as coach with Wolves, wasted no time in getting out and about to evaluate our young domestic talent.

'Hickey' was spotted last Wednesday night at Marconi Stadium, studiously observing the local talent on display in the AIS vs Sydney Olympic Youth League Northern Division preliminary final.



MICKY HICKMAN: That Man is back in town.



EVEN the clinical skills of MILAN ('The Doctor') IVANOVIC, Adelaide City's elegant World Cup sweeper, could not cure the rash of four Marconi goals that broke out all over his team last Sunday. picture: courtesy of Allan Crisp of the Adelaide Advertiser.

STAR PROFILE

Tommy Pondeljak



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Date of Birth: January 8th, 1976.
Birthplace: Melbourne.
Previous Clubs: St Albans.
Current Club: The Melbourne Knights.
Position: Striker or right-midfielder.
Nickname: "Kestic".
Marital Status: Single.
Occupation: Fulltime player.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Mobility and flair.
Most Difficult Opponent: All.
Most Impressive Local Player: Joe Simunic.
Favourite Overseas Player: Kanchelski (Everton).
Favourite Overseas Club: Ajax Amsterdam.
Nation To Win '96 Euro Championships: Croatia.
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: A strong disciplined mind.
Who Would You NOT Invite To Your Dinner Party: Eddie Lennie.
Honours: Selected for Australian Under 20s camp in 1993.
Ambitions For 1996: To win League Championship with the Knights.
Ambitions After Retiring: No idea whatsoever right now.
Most Memorable Moment: My first goal I scored in League against Wollongong City this season. I scored another in same match.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Golf and fishing.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Andrew Marth's in last season's Grand Final against Adelaide City.
Favourite Food: Pasta.
Favourite Drink: Scotch and Coke.
Car You Drive: Anything I find at home.
Favourite TV Show: The Simpsons.
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Neighbours.
Favourite Movie: Beverly Hills Cop.
Favourite Actor/Actress: Eddie Murphy and Demi Moore.
Preferred Music: Top 40.
Least Preferred Music: Country and Western.
Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy.
Pet Hates: Losing any game.
Special Advice To Young Players: Listen to all coaches.
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Franca Tudman.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Brisbane overlooked

Dear Sir,
Queenslanders will share the disappointment at the extraordinary last minute dumping of Clint Bolton from the Olyroo squad, not just for the act itself, but for the reasons reportedly given.

Several weeks ago, I wrote to this paper criticising SBS for its unrepresentative coverage of the Ericsson Cup which largely left Brisbane out in the cold. It is ironic that it was a few brief glimpses of an all too rare appearances of Bolton on SBS that allegedly persuaded Eddy Thomson to drop him. It is doubly ironic that Bolton's consistency and class throughout the season played a major role in the Strikers earning a finals spot and the very TV appearance which has led to his dismissal.

Thomson has gone on record that the recent spate of international games played overseas gives him the opportunity to see how selected players shape up against quality opposition away from home. Thomson need only come to Brisbane to see how some of his favourite sons perform outside Melbourne, Sydney

and Adelaide, even at the NSW level, and spare Soccer Australia the expense of the overseas trip. In so doing, he would see not only those southern players which impress, Norman Tome being a shining example, but also those that do not. He might also be surprised at the ability of one or two of the Queenslanders too.

Saddened as I am to hear that Brisbane may be losing the skills of Jason Polak next season, who can blame him for wishing to return to Melbourne, if only to ensure that his ability is not overlooked by the national coach?

It is fair to say that the Olyroo squad looks good on paper, particularly given the strength of the overseas based players, and for that, Eddie Thomson is to be congratulated. However, if Olympic selections in other sports were made on the basis of edited footage on TV and idle gossip in Melbourne bars, there would be a public outcry, and rightly so.

Leon Stepowski
Ferry Hills QLD

A goal like good sex

Dear Sir,

Hello to all you Aussie soccer supporters out there the Olympic qualifiers are here again lets get behind our boys as we fight for the right to qualify to the Olympics.

I can still remember Ned Zelic's goal four years ago against the Netherlands which put us through to the Olympics of 92. I leaped up and hugged my mates as we danced around the lounge room.

It was a great feeling and a great day for Aussie soccer, it really put us on the map, no one gave us much chance against the more highly fancied Netherlands but they all misjudged the great Aussie fighting spirit, the under dog had done it again.

I believe it started the momentum which almost carried us to the World Cup of 94 in the USA.

That game against Argentina which I was privileged to see live in the flesh as Maradona made his come back will be one of my greatest sporting memories of all time.

The crowd was electric and for the first time I felt what it meant to support your country against another in this greatest of all events the World Cup.

It gave me a sense of pride and had me wishing I could be out there playing for my country. I still get shivers up my spine when I think about it today, when Aurelio Vidmar scored for Australia the crowd gave the greatest cheer I have ever heard the passion and ecstasy was a sheer delight something like good sex.

People had tears in their eyes I found myself naked from the waist up as I waved my Aussie shirt around above my head it happened so fast to this day I still can't remember taking my shirt off. (Thank God I didn't go for my pants). It was fantastic and worth every cent that my mate and I had spent to get to Sydney from Perth I will treasure that day forever, you can be sure when the Socceroos play that last stage of qualifiers for the 98 World Cup I will be in Sydney again no matter what I have to do. To see and support your country as it fights for glory is one of the greatest privileges a man can have.

So let's get the ball rolling Aussies for we play, the greatest game on the planet "soccer" lets get behind our boys the Olyroos as they fight for Glory.

When they play the home game of their qualifier on June 2 I want to see a full stadium cheering our boys on giving them the courage of fight for victory dare to fight, dare to win, long live the great Aussie Spirit. Go Aussie let us all unite into one positive energy supporting our boys as they fight for the right to enter the world stage.

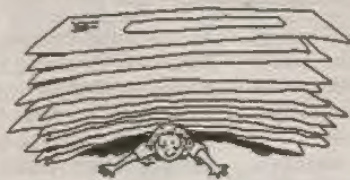
I would also like to wish all the Aussies competing in this year's Olympics the very best may you all win Gold and do us proud.

We Salute You!

Paul Bottari,
Balcatta. WA

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

The Editor,
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BRITISH SOCCER
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Wrong Whistleman

Dear Sir,

When will soccer in this country become professional?

Time and again we see so-called paid professionals trying their best to help the image of our great game, but time and again they put their feet in their mouths.

It's just not good enough, and whether we like it or not the game in Australia is going backwards because of the lack of professionalism.

Can somebody get the message across to those three wise Sydney men

who select our referees that what they did last week in Melbourne was nothing but total madness.

Why in God's name did they select Sydney referee Simon Micallef to take charge of the vital major semi final between a Sydney team and a Melbourne team - Marconi Fairfield and Melbourne Knights?

Micallef didn't have the chance of a snowball in hell of doing anything right as far as the 100 per cent Melbourne crowd was concerned.

Even Blind Freddy knew

this match should have had a Neutral ref. We all know the Melbourne side won with only nine players. But this is not the point.

Can you imagine England playing Scotland at Wembley with an English whistleman?

The referee for this important match in Melbourne should have been a whistleman from Perth, Adelaide or Brisbane.

Wake up gentlemen! Soccer will never progress with stupid decisions like these.

Michael Courtney
Kew, VIC.

SHOW THE YOUNGSTERS

Dear Sir,

Bouquets to the Brisbane Strikers for their on the field performance during the current season.

Bouquets again to their administrators, who have introduced some fine initiatives and have reaped the rewards...with crowd numbers showing good increases over the previous season.

The record of the Strikers however when it comes to 'giving the youngsters a go' up here in the Sunshine state leaves a lot to be desired.

To develop a young player, he must be given regular 'exposure' at top level. The odd ten minutes towards the end of a match does

little to improve skills or confidence.

The Strikers line-up consists mostly of fellows who have played their junior football in Queensland, yet all but one have found it necessary to play firstly with Southern NSW clubs to get established, prior to being lured back to Brisbane...not a good record.

Our young talent is immense. Let's give them the opportunity they deserve to show their wares (as many of the other NSW sides have done).

If we don't, we will suffer the consequences in the longer term.

W. Georgiou
Albany Creek QLD



Clint Bolton: Brisbane Strikers goalkeeper.

TOO MANY MATCHES

Dear Sir,

There has already been much speculation in some circles of the soccer media that the increase to 14 clubs in next season's A league will have a detrimental effect on the competition's growing reputation.

The detractors argue that simply there will not be a sufficient number of quality players of A league standard among the participating clubs, even allowing that there could be a slowing down in our young home grown talent obtaining worthwhile contracts overseas.

The claim that increasing the number of teams will only reduce the standard of play causing diminished spectator interest and media exposure is, I believe, an unfounded view.

In support of that belief is ABSW's published records of player appearances over a normal league season, which reveals that the number of players used, including substitutions, varied little between this years more hectic 33 round campaign by 12 competing teams compared with the previous seasons 24 matches undertaken by 13 clubs.

Interestingly in both season Brisbane Strikers and the two Adelaide sides have used the least number of players, while not unexpectedly the poorer performed teams called on a greater number of players as their coaches grappled with trying to find a consistent winning formula at the same time coping with an increase in the overall player injury lists and the almost inevitable suspension penalties.

Only UTS Olympic this year have gone against this norm. Players and coaches will agree that squeezing 33 league matches into less than a seven month period this year has been a very demanding task for part-time professionals.

It has involved a greater number of mid-week fixtures and more inter-state travel.

Little wonder that attendances at nearly all mid-week matches were not large as players endeavoured to maintain high performance levels although often carrying niggling injuries from one week to another.

In the light of this, is it too much to ask that Soccer Australia establish a formalised criteria for the future starting with next season. 26 matches can be scheduled easily into the October through to April period (30 weeks) without having the need for mid-week fixtures.

This formula would even allow for a two week break in late January to arrange an attractive international tournament involving the socceroos as well as vacant dates to play the early round of the Johnny Walker knock-out Cup competition in the last weekends of October and November.

A stabilised schedule of competition matches would certainly help the progress of our game in Australia, remembering that with Perth Glory's entry there will be the additional burden of even more long distant air travel.

Can I hear the shouts of approval from players, coaches, club administrators and supporters to this formula?

Peter Saninno
Seaford VIC



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JUNE 8-30

OUTRIGHT BETTING

Germany	9-2	Russia	14
Holland	11-2	Romania	16
Italy	6	Bulgaria	18
England	7	Denmark	20
Spain	8	Scotland	50
Croatia	10	Switzerland	50
France	10	Czech Republic	50
Portugal	12	Turkey	66

GROUP BETTING

GROUP 1

Holland	4-5
England	13-8
Scotland	9
Switzerland	9

GROUP 3

Germany	5-4
Italy	13-8
Russia	7-2
Czech Rep.	10

GROUP 2

Spain	13-8
France	2-1
Romania	7-2
Bulgaria	4-1

GROUP 4

Croatia	13-8
Portugal	13-8
Denmark	5-2
Turkey	9

ERICSSON CUP FINAL

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THE ERICSSON CUP'S GLITTERING PRIZES

Marvellous Mori the Warren Medal tip

JOHN WARREN MEDAL WINNERS

1977	Jim Rooney (Marconi Fairfield)
1978	Ken Boden (Newcastle KB United)
1979	Ivo Prskalo (Marconi Fairfield)
1980	Jim Hermiston (Brisbane Lions)
1981	Bobby Russell (Adelaide City)
1982	Peter Katholos (UTS Olympic)
1983	Joe Watson (Sydney City)
1984	Serg Melta (Adelaide City)
1985	Graham Honeyman (West Adelaide Sharks)
1986	Bobby Russell (South Melbourne)
1987	Graham Arnold (Sydney United)*
1988	Andrew Zinni (Melbourne Zebras)
1989	Frank Farina (Marconi Fairfield)*
1989/90	Paul Wade (South Melbourne)
1990/91	Frank Farina (Marconi Fairfield)*
1991/92	Zlatko Nastveski (Marconi Fairfield)
1992/93	Zeljko Adzic (Melbourne Knights)
1993/94	Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City)
1994/95	Josip Biskic (Melbourne Knights)
	Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
	Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights)
	Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights)

Until 1988 the best player award was voted on by referees, with a separate count for the player's player of the year beginning in 1986. An * indicates the player's player of the year in the years 1986 to 1988, when both players were awarded separate trophies. Since 1989 the player of the year — the John Warren Medal — has become the single most prestigious individual award of the season.

BY GREG BLAKE

Damian Mori's one very special season should end with a Warren Medal victory tonight (Tuesday), when the Ericsson Cup's night of nights returns to Melbourne.

Since the players themselves started voting on the league's highest

individual award six of the past 10 winners have been the league's leading scorer of the season.

It is no surprise that three Ericsson Cup goalscorers are amongst the five players nominated for the prestigious award, the 1995/96 Warren Medal.

Adelaide City's Mori, who set world and league marks with his goalscoring feats this year, Brisbane's Frank Farina and Kris Trajanovski of UTS Olympic are all final nominees, along with previous winner Paul Trimboli of South Melbourne and Craig Foster, also from Adelaide



City. Mori is tipped to take the award after what the record books suggest is probably as great a single season effort by any one player in the 20 years of competition history. Trajanovski and Farina have also captured headlines in breaking all-time individual goalscoring marks for

their respective teams. The Ericsson Cup's biggest night is in Melbourne tonight, with the final countdown for the Warren medal to be held at the World Congress Centre.

Another club goalscoring record-breaker, West Adelaide's Jim Tsekis, has been nominated for best Under 21 player, along with Robbie Enes of Sydney United and Tom Pondeljak of the Melbourne Knights.

John Perin (Adelaide City), David Ratcliffe (Olympic) and Manfred Schaefer (Marconi) are the nominees for coach of the year.

LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

1977	Dixie Deans (Adelaide City) — 16
1978	Ken Boden (Newcastle KB Utd) and Clive Eaton (Western Suburbs) — 14
1979	Mark Jankovic (Marconi Fairfield) — 18
1980	Gary Cole (Heidelberg United) — 21
1981	Gary Cole (Heidelberg United) — 16
1982	John Kosmina (Sydney City) — 16
1983	Doug Brown (South Melbourne) — 16
1984	Doug Brown (South Melbourne) — 22
1985	Charlie Egan (South Melbourne) — 21
1986	Graham Arnold (Sydney United) — 16
1987	Frank Farina (Marconi Fairfield) — 16
1988	Frank Farina (Marconi Fairfield) — 16
1989	Zlatko Nastevski (Marconi Fairfield) — 20
1989/90	David Seal (Sydney United) — 15
1990/91	David Seal (Marconi Fairfield) — 17
1991/92	Tim Bredbury (UTS Olympic) and Kim Talladoros (South Melbourne) — 15
1992/93	Francis Awaritefe (South Melbourne) — 18
1993/94	Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights) — 17
1994/95	Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights) — 18



Damian Mori: Will he win his first John Warren medal?

COACH OF THE YEAR

1977	Rale Rasic (Marconi)
1978	Gerry Chaldi (Sydney City)
1979	Les Scheinflug (Marconi)
1980	John Margaritis (South Melbourne)
1981	Eddie Thomson (Sydney City)
1982	Frank Arok (St George)
1983	Frank Arok (St George)
1984	Eddie Thomson (Sydney City)
1985	Eddie Thomson (Sydney City)
1986	Drago Sekularic (Melbourne City)
1987	Rale Rasic (Apia)
1988	Brian Garvey (South Melbourne)
1989	Bertie Mariani (Marconi)
1989/90	Bertie Mariani (Marconi)
1990/91	Zoran Matic (Adelaide City)
1991/92	David Ratcliffe (Wollongong Wolves)
1992/93	Jim Pyrgolios (South Melbourne)
1993/94	Mirko Bazic (Melbourne Knights)
1994/95	Zoran Matic (Adelaide City)



Kris Trajanovski: Nominated for best player.

UNDER 21 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

1977	John Kosmina (West Adelaide)
1978	Ian Souness (Sydney City)
1979	Eddie Krncevic (Marconi Fairfield)
1980	John Spanos (Sydney City)
1981	David Mitchell (Adelaide City)
1982	David Lowe (Newcastle KB United)
1983	Oscar Crino (South Melbourne)
1984	Tony Franken (Canberra City)
1985	Alan Hunter (Brisbane Lions)
1986	Ernie Tapai (Melbourne City)
1987	John Markovski (Sun George Cross)
1988	Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
1989	Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
1989/90	Paul Okon (Marconi Fairfield)
1990/91	Paul Okon (Marconi Fairfield)
1991/92	Kevin Muscat (Heidelberg United)
1992/93	Steve Corica (Marconi Fairfield)
1993/94	Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights)
1994/95	Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights)

SOCCER COACHING INTERNATIONAL STARTS UP

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SOCCER COACHING INTERNATIONAL is a new and innovative concept in coaching created with Australasian Sports Promotions. It is aimed at offering young Soccer players the valuable opportunity to gain soccer excellence from leading International Soccer identities, who possess the required coaching qualities.

It's the only genuine opportunity for prospective student members to meet their "idols" other than just watching them on television.

Soccer Coach International has signed up the services of some of the world's top Internationals (see list in advert, page 3) to take part in their clinics starting in July.

Memberships will be on an annual basis, costing \$180 and the first year will be restricted.

Each student member will receive a membership card, which among other things will offer discounts from major participating Sponsors, i.e. Sports shops, fast food outlets, cinemas, banks and travel agents.

The members will receive a regular magazine keeping them up to date on events, which stars will be attending.

One member per year judged to have attained Soccer excellence of the highest standards, will be



Zbica Robert: The former Australia International will be one instructor at the Soccer Camp.



offered a one month Soccer Scholarship, embracing an all expenses paid trip to one of Britain's top Clubs.

"Sponsors will be able to utilise the International players and coaches to promote their products and attend their facilities", stated Gary Williams, director of Soccer Coaching International.

"We envisage the quality of media coverage to be high. In a recent one week tour of Australia to promote the Clinics, former England World Cup striker Geoff Hurst,

received more TV coverage than the ongoing Olympic Tournament and the Ericsson Cup combined".

The main objectives of these nation-wide Clinics are:

- * To raise the profile of the Soccer Code in Australia.

- * Promote Soccer excellence plus offer all players a challenging incentive to reach a much higher standard.

- * To produce future Australian Soccer Stars.

- * Chance for members to meet their idols personally.

- * One-off annual Membership.

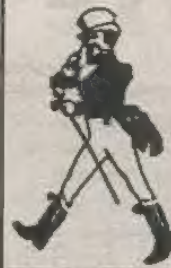
- * Discounts from Sponsors.

- * A regular magazine to keep up to date on which stars will be attending which clinics.

- * A Scholarship with one of Britain's top Clubs — All expenses paid.

JOHNNIE WALKER COACH OF THE MONTH

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



IAN DOBSON, the Melbourne Knights' disciplined coach, was late last week declared the worthy winner of the 'Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month' award. This is the eighth and final time the award is bestowed for this season.

Dobson, having never coached in the tough ranks of the national League, courageously took over the reins of the current League champions from the departing master Mirko Basic, who had won last season's Grand Final.

But far from being an easy task, coaching rookie Dobson had to largely recycle, revitalise and increase mobility into the Knights' squad.



IAN DOBSON: 'Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month' award winner.

For example, following the loss of twin internationals Steve Horvat and Mark Viduka to European clubs during the off-season, the former tenacious centre-back had to quickly inject no less than seven new players into his squad whilst simultaneously striving to keep the Champions on an even keel.

Never in the League's history has a team facing back-to-back Grand Finals, had such a dangerously, disruptive, high turnover of players.

But the dedicated Dobson has most methodically and successfully, straddled this hurdle to once again ride the Knights straight into Sunday's Grand Final.

Dobson in receiving his 'Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month' award, was typically humble and stated to the media: "It's been a very hard season for all of us, but most certainly it's been a real team-effort."

"Now we are left to face Marconi on Sunday to defend our Champions' title", ended the phlegmatic young Knights' boss.

The Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month award is chosen on the following criteria:

1. **Team performance**-the number of wins in that period.

2. **Quality of opposition**-beating a top side as opposed to beating the bottom of the table.

3. **Home and Away**-winning away from home as opposed to winning at home.

The 'Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month' is chosen after each four consecutive Ericsson League matches.

The selection panel is:

Eddie Thomson: Coach of Australia.

Jimmy Selby: Soccer Australia's Coaching and Development Officer.

Zoran Matic: Former Adelaide City long-serving champion coach.

Ian Dobson joins the illustrious list of seven previous four-weekly winners of: Harry Bingham (Morwell Falcons), David Ratcliffe -twice-(Sydney Olympic), Michael Lyons (Canberra Cosmos), Bruce Stowell (Brisbane Strikers), Johnny Perin (Adelaide City) and Branko Culina (Sydney United).

All coaches in the Ericsson League have cast a vote for the 1995-96 'Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Year', who will be named tonight at the national Soccer League's Awards Night.

This most prestigious 'Johnnie Walker Coaching Award' was taken out last season by the previously mentioned Zoran Matic.



Robbie Slater: Will be one of the soccer instructor at the soccer camp.

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ERICSSON CUP MINOR SEMI-FINAL

'Kindie's' move on to primary

**ADELAIDE CITY 1
SYDNEY UNITED 0**

BY PETER KRUPKA

Adelaide City's quest for a fourth National League crown stayed on track as it sent Sydney United crashing from the finals race with a 1-0 win in the minor semi-final at Hindmarsh Stadium last Wednesday.

A cracking volley from full-back Brad Armour crushed United's dream of winning its first title and booked the Zebras a place in Sunday's preliminary final against Marconi.

Two sensational saves by 'keeper Jason Petkovic in the dying minutes denied the visitors, who beat City 3-1 here three weeks ago, a chance to get back in the match.

A perfectly weighted cross from Mark Brazzale to the back post found

SCORER: Adelaide City: Armour (44)
YELLOW CARDS: Adelaide City: Ivanovic (26), Armour (28), Perin (42)
Sydney United: Bilokapic (9), Patikas (45)
CROWD: 7800
REFEREE: B Hugo

Alex Tobin whose header across goal deflected kindly off David Zdrilic into the path of the unmarked Armour, who shot from near the penalty spot.

But the Zebras will be without the gritty defender for the preliminary final after he received his second yellow card in the series for a crude tackle on Jimmy Patikas.

Spirited United striker Manis Lamond had the perfect opportunity to give the visitors an early lead when a cross by Ante Milicic landed at his feet six metres from goal but control deserted him, allowing Petkovic to make the save.

With both sides deprived of their Olyroo players, the first half was riddled with basic errors as a combination of nerves and unfamiliar team-mates took toll.

Boosted by the goal so close to the break, City settled early in the second half but failed to add to the scoreline.

With time against them, the visitors pushed forward with Milicic given a chance to score after Lamond fired in a cross but his failure to control allowed City to clear.

Damian Mori, who hit the crossbar with a floating header seconds before the break, looked certain to score when a Brazzale cross landed for him but Sydney 'keeper John Perosh made a brilliant reflex save. United coach Branko Culina said the loss of his Olympic players, Mark Babic, Ante Moric and Robert Enes, compounded by a flu virus which hit his squad on the weekend, made the win near impossible.

"It was always going to be difficult without our three players," he said. "We had to reshuffle our side and we missed our midfield."

"Petkovic made a couple of good saves but we made one mistake and they punished us."

"In finals with tight defences like Adelaide City, they are going to be hard to break."

City coach John Perin, also fielding a young side in the absence of Olyroos Bradley Hassell and Goran Lozanovski, was suitably proud of his charges.

"It was a scrappy game but I thought it was a good effort from our kindergarten squad," Perin said.

ADELAIDE CITY: Petkovic, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Costanzo, Armour, Mennillo, Brazzale, Foster, Perin (Salapasis 72)

SYDNEY UNITED: Perosh, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Popovic, Markovac, Milicic, Patikas (Z Babic 68), Zdrilic, Lamond (Rudan 77), Bilokapic, C Gibson.



Brad Armour: Killed off United with a cracking volley.

CONCACAF OLYMPIC QUALIFYING RESULTS

Trinidad & Tobago2 El Salvador1
(halftime 1-0)
Scorers: Trinidad & Tobago - Marvin Raeburn (30), Stern John (85th)
El Salvador - Cristian Lopez (77)
Attendance: 700

Canada and Costa Rica played a 0-0 draw.

Mexico2 Jamaica1
(halftime 1-0).
Scorers: Mexico - Cuauhtemoc Blanco (17), Jesus Arellano (85)
Jamaica - Andrew Williams (87)
Attendance: 8,831

TABLE

Mexico	4	4	-	-	11	1	12
Canada	4	2	2	-	7	2	8
Costa Rica	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Trin/Tobago	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
El Salvador	4	1	-	3	6	10	3
Jamaica	4	1	-	3	4	9	3

(Mexico has sufficient points to qualify automatically for Atlanta, while Canada has sufficient points to finish runner-up and will play Australia for final place).



Stowell struck out

The Brisbane Strikers have not reappointed coach Bruce Stowell despite his effort in leading them to their most successful National League season.

Strikers chairman Ian Brusasco, in a short statement released last week, said the club would advertise the coaching position nationally.

Brusasco acknowledged Stowell's efforts this season.

"In the three years of



his appointment Bruce has contributed significantly to the present standing of the club," he said.

"There is, however, a view of the board that

such an important position in the organisation requires a review after an initial three years.

"Accordingly the board has decided to take this course of action."

Contenders for the job at this stage are Tony Pezzano who is currently coaching NSW Super League team Leichhardt Tigers and former Australian representatives Eddie Krncevic and Garry McDowall.



Australia's Olympic team, to play Canada for final Atlanta spot

Australia and Canada will clash in a two-game series starting this weekend for the right to earn the final spot in the Olympic soccer tournament.

Canada drew 0-0 with Costa Rica last week in

the CONCACAF Olympic qualifying tournament ensuring the host nation the runners-up spot and a chance to qualify for Atlanta.

However, Mexico won the group and gained automatic entry to Atlanta with its fourth straight victory of the tournament, a 2-1 triumph over Jamaica last week.

Canada will play Australia in Canada on June 26, while the return leg will be held at the Sydney Football Stadium on June 2.

Canada's result

followed by Mexico's difficult win rendered the final three games of the 15-game, six-nation tournament meaningless.

Jamaica put up a fight before falling in front of 8,831 Commonwealth Stadium fans, the biggest crowd of the tournament.

The only goal of the first half went to Cuauhtemoc Blanco, his fourth of the tournament, to hand Mexico a 1-0 lead on 17 minutes.

Jesus Arellano made it 2-0 in the 85th minute but Jamaica



TV

SBS TV will broadcast the whole match live.

Coverage begins at 8 am, Monday 27th May.

roared back with a header by Andrew Williams off a corner kick in the 87th minute. The goal was the first conceded by Mexico in 357 minutes.

In the first game of the night Trinidad & Tobago upset El Salvador 2-1.



ERICSSON CUP PRELIMINARY FINAL

Two early Marconi goals kill Adelaide City

**MARCONI 4
ADELAIDE
CITY 1**

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Marconi's two lightning fast early goals in the Preliminary Final after just four minutes, completely wrecked any hopes that the youthful and courageous visiting Adelaide City may have had of qualifying for back-to-back Grand Finals last Sunday at Sydney's Parramatta Stadium.

With an almost commanding halftime 3-1 lead, Marconi added another to ultimately march into Sunday's Grand Final by defeating the 'Black and Whites' 4-1.

The disappointingly small crowd of just 6,713 had barely settled into their seats when Marconi hungrily struck in the 3rd and 4th minutes through talented attacking left-back, Brendan Renaud and sharp-shooting midfielder Brad Maloney.

A Maloney corner swung into Adelaide City's box was headed on by centre-back Dominic Longo which in turn was badly cleared to an eager Renaud who looped his long header into the top right corner despite the ball skimming an Adelaide defender's head right on the goal-line.

No sooner had this early shock-goal gone in when 60 seconds later Marconi was in yet again.

Maloney doubled the scoreline when he finished off a move instigated by That Man and industrious striker, Andy Harper. From the left Harper crossed for right back Matthew Bingley who laid on for the advancing and unmarked

Maloney to slot the target with a low drive from the right.

Quickly realising that early goals were now frantically needed to make any contest of it, Adelaide City's lanky international and highly experienced sweeper Milan Ivanovic started to play forward, desperately trying to instigate attacks down both flanks.

But Marconi's twin-mobile-markers of Dominic Longo and Paul Souris tightly patrolled Adelaide's new strike-duo of Damian Mori and Kostas Salapasisidis, denying both any real estate inside Parramatta Stadium.

Harper exploded into more action as he again busted through in the 29th minute to set up Maloney for another crack at the target. Rookie left-back



Brendan Renaud:
Marconi's highly
talented left defender.

Jamie Perin swung round behind his 'keeper to clear the on-target missile off his goal-line, but watched in horror as Renaud raced in and rocked the left post from the rebound.

By the 31st minute the galloping Harper was still very hungry for more Marconi goals. Raiding down the left he beat defender Mark Yates, but despite his low drive parried by 'keeper Jason Petkovic, the alert

SCORERS: Renaud 3rd, Maloney 4th and 79th, Awaritefe 31st for Marconi and Tobin 43rd-penalty for Adelaide City
YELLOW CARDS: Longo 88th and Bingley 90th for Marconi, Salapasisidis 71st, Mennillo 90th and J. Penn 93rd for Adelaide City
REFEREE: E. Brazzale.
CROWD: 6,713

Francis Awaritefe sliced in to place into the left corner Marconi's goal No 3

But still the overall young and inexperienced Adelaide City refused to yield to Marconi's fury and two minutes before the break were rewarded.

Central midfielder Craig Foster burst into Marconi's box where Longo arguably fouled the flying 'Black and White' forcing referee Eugene Brazzale to point to the spot. Tobin scored the penalty despite goalkeeper Bobby Catlin valiantly getting a touch to the well-struck shot.

Harper four minutes after the break desperately came close as he fired just over the cross-bar and four minutes later still, a quiet Mori finally turned a ball sharply off the byline and into Marconi's six yard box where a diving Yates barely shaved the base of the left upright. A very fatal miss.

Johnny Perin urgently wanting to fast close up the two-goal-deficit, bravely brought on in the 56th minute the highly experienced but retired midfielder-veteran warrior, Joey Mullen and ambitiously slotted him into the attack-line as a hopefully life-saving third striker.

In the 63rd minute the towering Tobin was floored being knocked out cold as he

accidentally copped a swinging elbow to the jaw from a galloping Harper. Play was held up for some minutes as Tobin received first aid but the South Australian captain gradually staggered to his feet to bravely continue in the fray.

Mobile Marconi substitute defender Gary Van Egmond, operating this time from the midfield, swung a great cross in the 77th minute to the still hungry Harper. Harper with a spectacular diving header from inside the 'small box' couldn't believe the magnificent elastic save by Petkovic.

With time ticking away and still trailing by a decisive 3-1, Adelaide City still wouldn't yield. Quickly moving the ball around the young brigade of Angelo Costanzo, Foster, Dino



Alex Tobin: Adelaide
City's World Cup
centre-back.

Mennillo, Salapasisidis and Perin desperately tried to breach Marconi's lines for an adrenalin-boosting second goal.



Andy Harper: Marconi's outstanding industrious
striker.

But here the 'Black and Whites' found enormous and most unexpected resistance, not from just the Marconi defenders, but strangely enough from the extremely tenacious defensive work repeatedly ploughed in by both strikers, Harper and Awaritefe.

Time after time both Harper and Awaritefe dropped back 60 metres to abruptly halt the forward progress of a 'Black and White' shirt.

Harper in the 79th minute finally drove the last painful nail into Adelaide City's coffin. Latching onto a Vlado Zoric ball, Harper swung a cross to the left for a grateful marauding Maloney to smash his second, and Marconi's fourth and final goal.

Well into stoppage time Bingley again joined the attack, but the blond defender's drive from wide out on the left, ricocheted off the upright.

Extremely disappointed with the result, but highly proud of his young Adelaide

City team, coach Johnny Perin emotionally stated. "This one most important game against Marconi was worth four years of experience crammed in for all of my young players."

The mere fact that we went through our last 18 games for just two losses, makes me very proud to have been associated with all of my boys.

"Their commitment, effort and never-ending courage, I respect."

"As far as this last match, their (Marconi's) two very early goals killed us off completely and wrecked our strategies."

Here I must add that their two strikers (Harper and Awaritefe) did the work of four people as they continually chased our midfielders and defenders. Bringing on Joey Mullen was my last desperate shot at the dice", ended Perin who finished most splendidly his very first season as head-coach in the national League.

Sitting in silence in the 'Black and Whites' dressing

rooms, World Cup sweeper Milan ('the Doctor') Ivanovic, could only lament to ABSW: "What can I say? Their early goals murdered us and virtually made it impossible to come back for our very young and inexperienced team, but it will be a lesson to all of us for the future."

The 'Black and Whites' skipper and centre-back Alex Tobin, reflected: "It was very disappointing to concede those two very early goals and an extremely difficult task to get back from being behind the '8-ball'."

But even when we were down 3-1 we still played well and managed to create two more good chances, but when the fourth was struck in, it killed the contest", ended Australia's World Cup marker.

Meanwhile Marconi's Manfred Schaefer, calmly praised the South Australians stating: "Adelaide City played well above themselves to still be able to compete even in the second half. It was a good team effort."

"They had one opportunity and we would counter-attack. We had to overcome our last two matches against the Melbourne Knights and I think we did so and have picked up greatly. Now for Sunday's big one in Melbourne", ended Schaefer.

MARCONI: Catlin, Bingley, Longo, Souris, Stanton, Renaud, Maloney, Hristodoulou (Van Egmond 59th), Zoric: Harper, Awaritefe.

ADELAIDE CITY: Petkovic: Yates, Tobin, Ivanovic, Perin: Costanzo, Foster, Brazzale (Mullen 56th), Mennillo: Mori, Salapasisidis.

LES SCHEINFLUG YOUTH CUP

NORTHERN DIVISION GRAND FINAL

BY PETER KONSTO

Marconi Fairfield were crowned Northern Division Champions for the inaugural Les Scheinflug Youth Cup when they defeated the Australian Institute of Sport 2-0 at Parramatta Stadium on Sunday.

Marconi started the more composed of the two sides with the AIS making a number of defensive blunders in the opening five minutes that the Fairfielders failed to take advantage of.

The first half saw a tight midfield battle emerge with neither side creating many goal scoring opportunities.

In the 18th minute, a great far post ball by Marconi's Vaughan Hunter provided an opening for Jeremy Harris whose unchallenged

header went straight into the arms of AIS goalkeeper and captain, Barney Smith.

On the 26th minute mark, a brilliant run and cross by Brett Emerton for the AIS saw striker John Maisano get his head to the ball but not effectively enough to trouble the Marconi goal as it harmlessly went wide.

Eight minute later, an amazing right foot drive by Ante Seric from 25 metres forced a spectacular save from Marconi goalkeeper, Les Pogliacomi as he tipped the shot over the bar.

Marconi went close on 34 minutes when Jeremy Harris broke down the right flank and after beating one defender, sent a wickedly struck low shot towards goal that flew just past the far post.

The first half finished up fairly

even with both sides having asserted various periods of dominance with Harris and Andrew Ravenello combining well for Marconi while for the Institute, Brett Emerton and Michael Cunico proved most dangerous.

Marconi started the second half with the determination and force they had begun with in the first, Peter Krijar going close as early as the 48th minute when his 20 metre right foot drive sailed just wide of the left had upright.

The Marconi dominance continued with a series of consecutive corners causing all manner of trouble for the AIS defence. Right on 55 minutes, a quick break-out from defence, saw Marconi's Ravenello beat a defender on the edge of the box but his well struck shot was

equally well saved by Smith in the AIS goal.

The constant Marconi pressure finally took its toll on a shell-shocked AIS when on 58 minutes, their most potent striker Nick Bosevski, got the all important opening goal.

It resulted after more sustained pressure by Marconi when a decisive cross by Scott Jeffers was flicked on by Hunter for Bosevski to steal in on the far post and emphatically head home from close range.

The goal seemed to spark the Institute back into the game and from that point on, they began to assert some dominance and pressure of their own as they desperately sought an equaliser.

A great move involving Ivan Zelic and Maisano after 63 minutes saw the latter fire a

dangerous shot towards goal but it went just wide of its mark.

The best chance the AIS created for a goal came after a period of sustained pressure that resulted in a brilliant cross from Peter Buljan. However, the ensuing free header and indeed first touch, for substitute John Sapazovski, went agonisingly wide for the frustrated scholarship holders.

The Institute continued with this type of dominance but when Marconi were awarded a penalty well into injury time, any thoughts of an AIS equaliser went completely out of the window.

The penalty came when Marconi substitute, Sam Larocca, was brought down in the corner of the area and Marconi captain, Michael Kladis, expertly converted the spot-kick to put victory beyond doubt.

The loss was a cruel blow for the AIS who once again find themselves the "bridesmaids", having lost their third consecutive Northern Division Grand Final.

Perhaps the most notable "constant" in these losses, has been that Lee Sterry has coached the opposing teams that have defeated the Institute in all of these games.

The Marconi victory is a testament to the astute coaching abilities of Sterry who led Sydney United to two consecutive Northern Division titles (1993-4 & 1994-5) as well as the National Youth League title last season.

If Marconi are to achieve a unique double for Sterry, they will have to defeat a tough Southern Division Champion in West Adelaide next Sunday at Olympic Park in Melbourne.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Kimon down, cries Glory

Perth Glory, the first side from the West about to hit the next Ericsson Cup campaign, have been on the hunt for a couple of current National League players to bolster the WA line-up that will be taking on the might of Italian giants Sampdoria, on May 31 at the WACA Ground.

The two that have been unveiled are star strikers Kimon Taliadoros from UTS Olympic and Ante Milicic from Sydney United. "We have invited them over specifically for the Sampdoria game, but we'll definitely talk to them regarding a longer relationship if things work

Taliadoros 28, formerly with 1995/96 Ericsson Cup finalists Marconi and South Melbourne, is also a popular identity on SBS TV shows. Milicic 22, a former Youth International who recently missed out on Olyroo selection, is equally an explosive performer on his day.

"We are pretty thrilled to have these two come over and join us," said Glory coach Gary Marocchi.

"I was at the 1993 Australia — Columbia youth game and still remember that great goal Ante scored. Hopefully, he and Kimon, who is also a well respected player in this country, will

forward Peter Murphy and Trum Morgan of Inglewood, who performed soundly during the Glory's friendly games over the past few months.

"They have been good players for us in their own right, but we feel we need to look at the long term future of the club, especially the forthcoming National League season," said Marocchi.

The two players that are replacing them are former Youth International and Birmingham City striker Vas Kalegeracos and Perth Soccer Club winger Dale Wingell.

Meanwhile, Sampdoria, who are being brought to Perth by sports promoter SportWorks, will only be playing in Perth as a part of a weeks break. They return to Italy immediately afterwards.

PERTH GLORY SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Tom Maras, Mike Harness.

Defence: Allan Armstrong, Carlos Rodrigues, Gavin Tait, Gareth Naven.

Midfield: Craig Naven, Scott Miller, Paul Strudwick,



Kimon Taliadoros: Perth Glory's special guest.

Steve Bourne, Paul Taliadoros, Ante Milicic, McVittie, Vas Kalegeracos, Alan MacKenzie, Dale Wingell.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Spearwood Dalm...	2	Inglewood Falcons	4
Stirling Macedonia..	1	Perth SC	0
Bayswater Panthers	4	Sorrento	1
Olympic Kingsway ..	1	Swan IC	2
Floreat Athena.....	1	Western Knights	0

RESERVE

Spearwood Dalm....	1	Inglewood Falcons	1
Stirling Macedonia..	2	Perth SC	3
Bayswater Panthers	2	Sorrento	0
Olympic Kingsway ..	1	Swan IC	1

UNDER 18s

Spearwood Dalm....	1	Inglewood Falcons	1
Stirling Macedonia..	2	Perth SC	3
Bayswater Panthers	1	Sorrento	3
Olympic Kingsway ..	1	Swan IC	7

FIRST DIVISION

North Lake Esp.....	1	Rockingham City ..	1
Ashfield — Bun	3	Cockburn United	0
Perth City	2	Balcatta	2
Morley Windmills	4	Dianella W/Eagles.....	1
Southside Utd	3	Joondalup City.....	3
Fremantle City.....	3	Bassendean Caledonian	1

SECOND DIVISION

Balga	2	Western Yugal	0
Queens Park	6	Melville Corinthian	1
Wanneroo City	5	Stirling Vardar	2
University.....	2	Armada Park	4

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayswater	6	6	0	0	17	1	18
Stirling	6	5	1	0	10	5	16
Inglewood	6	4	2	0	15	8	14
Perth SC	6	4	0	2	9	5	12
Spearwood	6	3	0	3	12	13	9
Floreat	6	1	2	3	8	13	5
Swan	6	1	1	4	6	13	4
Sorrento	6	1	0	5	4	10	3
Knights	6	0	2	4	7	12	2
Kingsway	6	0	2	4	9	17	2

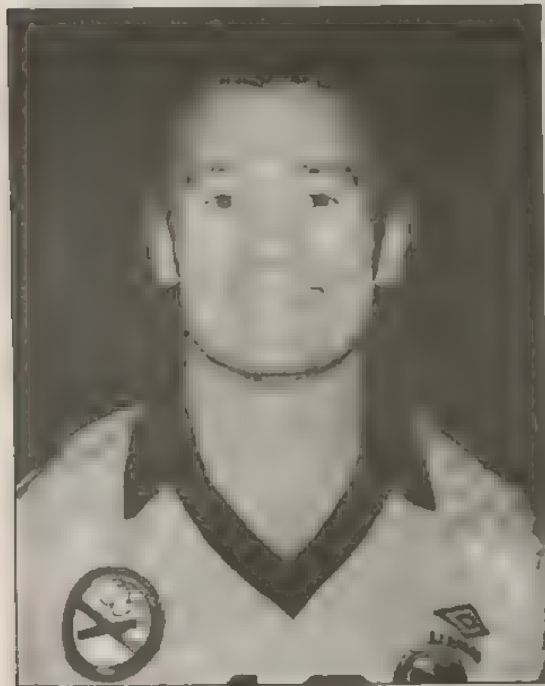


out," said Glory manager Roger Lefort. "We are naturally very grateful to both Sydney Olympic and UTS for the loan of their players," he said.

turn it on in similar fashion for us."

Two notable omissions from the West's 16 man squad are Stirling Macedonia's seasoned key

Sutton slays Spearwood



Norrie Sutton: A colossus for Inglewood Falcons.

He may have been the smallest player on Dalmatinac Park last Saturday, but former state midfielder Norrie Sutton was a colossus during Inglewood Falcons' 4-2 victory over Spearwood Dalmatinac.

The inspirational performance from 35 year old Sutton, who won the states fairest and best award in 1982, was also crowned with a personal three goal haul. For the

Spearwood side, their's was a fairly mediocre showing, one that was devoid of both defensive and midfield cohesion.

The first goal of Sutton's hat-trick came after nine minutes, when he latched onto a Lou Collova downward header and drilled it past Zabica from 15 metres.

After Dalmatinac defender Craig Rourke had skimmed the wrong side of an upright in the 16th

minute, it became 2-0 seconds later when Sutton collected a searching centre from left winger John Hunter, and drilled it into the far reaches of the net from the right-hand edge of the box.

Hunter extended their lead in the 34th minute with a 25 metre pile-driver which was too hot for Zabica to hold. Spearwood's situation was further soured five minutes before the interval, when they had striker Dean Wallace sent off after a second yellow card tackle on Falcons young defender James Taylor.

The home side managed to reduce the deficit in the 56th minute with a Derek Combe penalty after a hand-ball offence by Paul Strudwick, but Inglewood regained their three goal advantage 15 minutes later when Combe brought down Sutton in his own penalty area. Sutton himself took the spot-kick and was untroubled in beating the ex-Socceroo for his treble.

With Inglewood now in cruise control, Michael Mirco took full advantage by scoring Spearwood's second goal in the 74th minute, when he pounced on a loose ball after Falcons 'keeper Darren Goldworthy dropped a Combe free-kick.

Panthers win but yield record

Despite conceding their first goal of the season, unbeaten highflyers Bayswater City Panthers secured a 4-1 win over surprise Premier League strugglers Sorrento at Bayswater Oval, while the personal record of 'a goal a game' for trailblazing centre-forward Robbie Perruzza, remained intact.

He opened Bayswater's account following a 12th minute Willy Herd cross, when he outjumped two Sorrento defenders and an out of position goalie Willie McNally.

The Panthers stretched their lead in the 38th minute with a quality 25 metre grass-cutter from Alan MacKenzie. Sorrento suffered a further set-back a minute after the re-start when new signing Steve Love was shown an instant red card, for a bad tackle on Perruzza.

But before Bayswater could capitalise, they were caught napping in the 51st minute when Andrew Chapman pulled a goal back for the visitors. It was the first goal the Panthers have conceded in 501 minutes.

But any ideas Sorrento had of gaining anything from this encounter, disappeared five minutes later when Herd delicately flicked a Perruzza ball over the

advancing McNally.

After later squandering a handful of scoring opportunities, they finally went further ahead five minutes before the end through debutant substitute Elton Holmes who headed home a Jason Van Rooy centre.



Alan MacKenzie: Scored a 25 metre grass-cutter.

Stirling stay in touch

Defending League champions Stirling Macedonia remain hot on the heels of current leaders Bayswater, following a thrilling victory against Perth at Macedonia Park.

It was an even tussle, one that was split by a solitary goal, scored by Macedonia midfielder Abdul Kamara in a see-sawing first half.

John Costa should have put Perth ahead in the 18th minute when he was sent goalbound by Ray Marinovic, but blasted well wide of Gary Whyatt's goal.

In the 32nd minute, Kamara set up an unmarked Paul Lincoln from a deep cross, only to head away from the target.

After Tom Maras made a courageous stop at Kamara's feet three minutes later and Milevski had a shot cleared off the line not long after, the action switched to the other end where Whyatt made a superb diving stop to a Costa header.

The stalemate was eventually broken in the 75th minute after a breathtaking 35 metre solo run from Kamara that included three one-two's on the way.

He finished off the move with a brilliant left-footed strike past a stranded Maras. Perth's Gareth Naven

came close to equalising four minutes later when his long range missile flashed past an upright, then brother Craig supplied Dale Wingell with the final opportunity in the 89th minute, but he drove his well struck half-volley straight into the 'keeper arms.

Meanwhile, Olympic Kingsway returned to the foot of the league ladder, after they suffered a 2-1 defeat to fellow strugglers Swan IC at Kingsway Reserve.

Damien Scali and promising forward Damien Todorovic netted the goals for Swan, while Michael Johnson was the lone scorer for Kingsway.

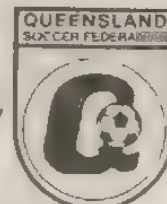
In the Sunday clash at the Velodrome, Floreat Athena collected their first win of the season and moved from ninth to sixth position, after they defeated Western Knights by a 24th minute Vesilin Zmukic penalty after Miran Misic had handled inside his area.

It was Zmukic's first match since an ankle injury last season, and there was also a welcome return from a two year absence by Knights midfielder Ray Kastropil who was their quality distributor. His efforts however, proved futile when his front-line failed to find the net.



QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Phone: (07) 3252-5327 Fax: (07) 3252-1137

Brisbane City lose again

BY GLENN DAVIS

another goal from

Consecutive losses by Brisbane City has thrown the XXXX league competition wide open after they went down 4-2 to Rochedale Rovers at Underwood Park last weekend.

Brisbane City, who dropped their first points of the season in their 1-0 loss to Brisbane Lions the previous round, have seen their huge lead slump to just five points clear of Lions who ran out 1-0 winners against Taringa Rovers at Jack Speare Park.

Brisbane City's lead could be as few as four points by the end of the week if Rochedale win a midweek catch-up round against lowly placed Easts.

Rochedale continued their impeccable home record this season slotting in three first half goals to take complete control over Brisbane City.

The League's leading



goal scorer Kieran Cooper bagged another double to take his official tally for the season to eleven although he should have been credited with a dozen goals but was not awarded a hat trick in his side's 6-1 thumping over North Star last month.

A penalty from fellow striker Andy Lees and



midfielder Brenley Jefford completed the rout over Brisbane City who hit back in the second half with goals from Damien Waugh and Cameron Pearse.

At Jack Speare Park, Brisbane Lions were lucky to walk away with maximum points against an injury depleted Taringa.

Taringa started the match without injured players Craig Collins and Demetri Theochari and later were to lose tough defender Damien Voss on the stroke of half time.

However, Voss's absence was not related to Taringa conceding on fourteen minutes when Lion's midfielder Trent Abel fired in a cross from the left to Warren Allen in the box who dummied for Kevin Meacock to tap in from close range.

However, Taringa, who clearly dominated possession were denied the equaliser just three minutes later when midfielder Brent Read headed a Marc Flemington cross onto the upright.

Taringa had a further chance to equalise late in the first half when midfielder Mark Bennett found himself in the clear but his shot from the edge of the box rose over the cross bar.

Lions, who have a tendency to sit back on a lead, failed to inspire their supporters in a gritty match punctuated by tight marking and poor finishing from both sides.

Taringa striker Fraser Cuba had two superb chances after the break to draw first blood for the home side but was off target on both occasions.



The first came in the fifty ninth minute when sweeper John Ogden set a long ball down the right flank for Cuba who cut in field and struck a shot which grazed the wrong side of the upright.

His second came in injury time when midfielder Des Hughes sent in a cross from the left for Cuba whose header was touched wide of the upright by Lions keeper Rob Farrow.

In other matches Beenleigh had to fight hard to come away with the points in a 1-0 win courtesy of a Jarrod Austin penalty over bottom placed North Star while a double from Jeff Maltby gave Wynnum a 2-1 win over Coalstars whose sole effort came from Steve Morris.

At Heath Park Easts and Pine Rivers shared the points in a 1-1 draw while Grange Thistle and Nerang also played out a scoreless draw at Wallace Dann Oval.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

- 11 Keiran Cooper (Rochedale)
- 8 Mark Flemington (Taringa)
- 7 Clayton Koch (Pine Rivers)
- Cameron Watson (Nerang)
- Geoff Maltby (Wynnum)
- 6 Anthony Brown (Brisbane Lions)
- Craig Collins (Rochedale)
- Andy Lees (Rochedale)
- Lee Scriggins (Brisbane City)
- 5 Fraser Cuba (Taringa)
- Dene Almond (Pine Rivers)
- Frank Mengotti (Brisbane Lions)
- Damian Waugh (Brisbane City)
- Paul Wilkins (Wynnum)
- 4 Jarrod Austin (Beenleigh)
- Willy Carter (Eastern Suburbs)
- Paul Cockbain (Nerang)
- Warren Cooley (Brisbane City)
- Greg De Losa (Grange Thistle)
- Danny Docherty (Grange Thistle)
- Steve Fitzsimons (Nerang)
- Troy Hews (Coalstars)
- Ian Hutchison (Brisbane City)
- Troy Percival (Grange Thistle)
- 3 Warren Allen (Brisbane Lions)
- Nathan Carlross (Eastern Suburbs)
- Ben Dwyer (North Star)
- Chris Fegan (Eastern Suburbs)
- David Guest (Coalstars)
- Shane Haddow (Brisbane City)
- Richard Hilli (Coalstars)
- Darren Hillier (Rochedale)
- Brenley Jefford (Rochedale)
- Bill McDermott (Wynnum)
- Kevin Meacock (Brisbane Lions)
- Brendan Rogers (North Star)
- 2 Noel Carroll (Pine Rivers)
- Brett Drury (Beenleigh)
- Jason Eacott (Beenleigh)
- Alan Eilsam (Wynnum)
- Simon Eslick (Brisbane City)
- Nick Hadland (Wynnum)
- Joel Hale (Pine Rivers)

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

This Week's Matches...

Friday, May 24

Pine Rivers	v	Grange Thistle	Wendy Allison Park	8.30pm
Beenleigh	v	Wynnum	Chris Green Park	8.30pm

Sunday, May 26

Nerang	v	Rockdale	Glennon Park	2.45pm
Coalstar	v	Eastern Suburbs	Eric Evans Reserve	2.45pm
Brisbane Lions	v	North Star	Lions Stadium	2.45pm
Brisbane City	v	Taringa Rovers	Spencer Park	2.45pm

QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

Rochedale Rovers	4	Brisbane City	2
North Star	0	Beenleigh	1
Wynnum District	2	Coalstars	1
Eastern Suburbs	1	Pine Rivers Utd	1
Grange Thistle	0	Nerang SC	0
Taringa Rovers	0	Brisbane Lions	1

TABLE

Brisbane City	12	10	0	2	27	9	30
Brisbane Lions	12	8	1	3	24	14	25
Rochedale Rovers	11	7	2	2	38	11	23
Beenleigh	12	7	1	4	14	14	22
Wynnum District	12	6	3	3	22	16	21
Grange Thistle	12	5	3	4	17	25	18
Nerang SC	12	5	1	6	23	22	16
Taringa Rovers	12	4	3	5	21	18	15
Coalstars	12	4	1	7	19	22	13
Pine Rivers Utd	12	3	1	8	21	32	10
Eastern Suburbs	11	2	3	6	13	23	9
North Star	12	0	1	11	9	42	1

DIVISION TWO

Albany Creek Exce	2	The Gap	2
Willowburn	1	Inala City Utd	2
Acacia Ridge	2	Logan City Kings	0
Capalaba Soccer & R	3	Ipswich St Helens	3
Olympic United	0	Rocklea United	1
Mount Gravatt	4	St Albans	2

TABLE

Rocklea United	12	9	2	1	38	14	29
Olympic United	12	7	3	2	33	19	24
Mount Gravatt	12	6	2	4	27	23	20
St Albans	12	5	3	4	29	23	18
Inala City United	12	6	0	6	23	28	18
Albany Creek Exce	12	5	2	5	27	32	17
Acacia Ridge	11	5	1	5	22	18	16
The Gap	12	4	2	6	17	25	14
Ipswich St Helens Utd	12	4	1	7	15	29	13
Capalaba Soccer & R	11	2	5	4	21	26	11
Logan City Kings	11	3	1	7	18	20	10
Willowburn	11	2	2	7	12	25	8

DIVISION THREE

Mitchelton	4	Souths United	0
Uni of Qld	1	Clairvaux SC Inc	0
Slacks Creek	7	Latrobe Athletic	0
Darra United	0	Goodna & Dist	0
Newmarket	3	Annerley Recreation	1
Redlands United	8	Western Suburbs	0

TABLE

Slacks Creek	11	11	0	0	52	3	33
Newmarket	11	9	1	1	24	8	28
Mitchelton	11	7	1	3	34	17	22
Uni of Qld	11	6	2	3	16	11	20
South United	11	5	2	4	28	15	17
Redlands United	11	5	1	5	30	19	16
Goodna & Districts	11	4	3	4	17	12	15
Annerley Recreation	11	3	2	6	17	24	11
Latrobe Athletic	11	3	2	6	21	35	11
Darra United	11	2	4	5	19	27	10
Western Suburbs	11	2	0	9	11	64	6
Clairvaux SC Inc	11	0	0	11	12	46	0

DIVISION FOUR

Brothers United	6	North Pine Utd	1
Greenbank	2	South Star	9
Southside Eagles	3	Pine Hills	1
Ipswich City	1	Bayside United	4
Moggill United	7	Redcliffe City	0
Samford	8	Browns Plains	0

TABLE

South Star	10	9	0	1	29	8	27
Moggill United	11	8	1	2	32	6	25
Bayside United	11	7	1	3	29	14	22
Southside Eagles	10	6	3	1	21	13	21
Samford	11	6	2	3	28	6	20
Brothers United	11	6	2	3	29	23	20
North Pine United	11	5	2	4	19	18	17
Redcliffe City	11	3	3	5	23	26	12
Pine Hills	11	3	0	8	13	29	9
Ipswich City	11	2	2	7	9	33	8
Brown Plains	11	1	1	9	9	35	4
Greenbank	11	0	1	10	17	47	1

Northern New South Wales

NBN FIRST DIVISION

Maitland Magpies.....1	Pasminco Roosters.....3
Cessnock Hornets.....1	Hamilton Warriors.....2
Weston Workers Bears.....2	Wallsend Red Devils.....1
Westy Workers Bluebells.....1	Deloraine Eagles.....3
Highfields.....8	Broadmeadow Magic.....0

RESERVES

Maitland Magpies.....1	Pasminco Roosters.....3
Cessnock Hornets.....0	Hamilton Warriors.....0
Weston Workers Bears.....1	Wallsend Red Devils.....1
Westy Workers Bluebells.....7	Deloraine Eagles.....0
Highfields.....2	Broadmeadow Magic.....0

UNDER 18s

Maitland Magpies.....4	Pasminco Roosters.....1
Cessnock Hornets.....0	Hamilton Warriors.....2
Weston Workers Bears.....1	Wallsend Red Devils.....1
Westy Workers Bluebells.....1	Deloraine Eagles.....0
Highfields.....2	Broadmeadow Magic.....0

NBN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Weston Workers	9	8	1	0	32	10	25
Highfields Wolves	9	7	1	1	31	5	22
Wallsend Red Devils	9	6	1	2	16	6	19
Hamilton Warriors	9	6	0	3	22	14	18
Deloraine Eagles	9	4	1	4	10	9	13
Maitland Magpies	9	2	2	5	14	21	8
Westy Workers	9	2	1	6	14	27	7
Broadmeadow Magic	9	2	1	6	17	31	7
Cessnock Hornets	9	1	3	5	10	19	6
Pasminco Roosters	9	1	1	7	8	32	4

RESERVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Wallsend Red Devils	9	7	1	1	30	12	22
Hamilton Warriors	9	6	1	2	19	12	19
Weston Workers	9	5	2	2	18	11	17
Deloraine Eagles	9	5	2	2	15	17	17
Westy Workers	9	5	1	3	19	7	16
Highfields Wolves	9	4	1	4	14	12	13
Broadmeadow M	9	2	3	4	15	17	9
Pasminco Roosters	9	2	1	6	8	18	7
Maitland Magpies	9	2	0	7	9	23	6
Cessnock Hornets	9	0	2	7	4	22	2

FOUR FOR McCAULEY

BY DANE SKAFTE
AND TOM
TRAJCEVSKI

Highfields Wolves' striker Brett McCauley scored 4 goals in his team's 8-0 win over Broadmeadow Magic in the NBN Soccer League last Sunday at Lyle Carr Oval.

The Wolves opened the scoring in the tenth minute after a mix up by the Magic defence which allowed McCauley to knock a ball home and to take the early lead.

It wasn't long before McCauley scored his second goal for the Wolves after his well judged header beat goalkeeper Craig Madderson.

Madderson was called upon to have an attempt at goal.

In the 14th minute McCauley scored his hat trick after his shot went just inside the post giving the keeper little chance.

Two minutes after half time break Highfields made it 4-0 after Todd McManus beat several defenders and Madderson to slot the ball home.

Magie's best

opportunity came midway through the second half when midfielder Tony Nikolovski had a run after beating several players but failed to beat Highfield's keeper Craig Shanko.

McCauley scored his fourth goal for the match after a goalmouth scramble which left the Magic players in a maze.

With ten minutes remaining in the match Howard Treddinick made 6-0 after a cross by Mick Williams. Several minutes later Magic's worries continued after midfielder Robert Kolarovski knocked the ball into his own net.

Aaron Campbell made it 8-0 for the Wolves with seconds left in the game.

Coaches Comments: A very pleased Wolves coach Steve Bland said after the match "The boy's performed well especially Brett McCauley he had a good game. Broadmeadow were unfortunate to have played us, when the boys are in such fine form."

Magic's coach John Veles confirmed after the game that he was disappointed with the application of his players.

Arctic Cup reaches Q/F Stage

BY DANE SKAFTE

The Northern NSW Federation Arctic Cup competition has reached the quarter-final stage with four fixtures to be played tonight Tuesday, May 21.

The quarter final draw has pitted Wallsend Red Devils against Deloraine Eagles and Highfields Wolves the only First Division club left in the competition to feature in the local derby against a very confident Dudley Redhead team.

The last round produced some of the most entertaining football in the cups history with the clash between Highfields and Weston Workers Bears heralded as one of the highest quality which ended with Highfields 5-4 penalty shootout win after the game was tied at 3-3 at the completion of normal time.

Other fixtures of note were the defeat of First Division side East Maitland Magpies by Second Division Stockton Sharks.

QUARTER FINAL DRAW

TUESDAY MAY 21

LISLE CARR OVAL (HIGHFIELDS)

6.30pm	Thornton Park	v	Mayfield United
7.40pm	Highfields Wolves	v	Dudley/Redhead

JACK MCLAUGHLAN FIELD (EDGEWORTH)

6.30pm	Marks Point	v	Singleton Strikers
7.40pm	Deloraine Eagles	v	Wallsend Red Devils

COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL TURNER CUP

QUALIFYING ROUND: Bega 1 Narooma 0, Eden 8 Monaro 0.

R1: Holy Cross 8 Pennant Hills 0, Malvina 3 Turramurra 1, Killara 2 Davidson 0, Galston 3 Cherrybrook Tech 0, Oakhill 7 Model Farms 1, Muirfield 4, Crestwood 1, Homebush Boys 2 Chris Bros Burwood 1, Parramatta Marist 3 Granville Boys 0, Arthur Phillip 4 Pendle Hill 3, Evans 4, Girraween 2, Chris Bros Lewisham 8 Tempe 0, Canterbury Boys 4 Dulwich 1, Newman 2 Pat Bros Granville 1, Merrylands 3 Parramatta 0, Sylvania 5 DLS Caringbah 2, Kingsgrove 2 Peakhurst 1, Waverley College 4 Dover Hts 1, Randwick Boys 3 Maroubra 0, Colyton 5 St Clair 0, Bidwill 2 Mamre Christ 0, Doonside 4 Richmond 0, Winmalee 3 Springwood 1, St Columbas 3 Katoomba 0, Emmaus College 9 Cambridge Park 0, St Dominics 1 Jamison 0, Blackland 3 Penrith 0, Blacktown Boys 7 Whalan 2, Westfields 9 Fairvale 0, East Hills Boys 2 Sir Joseph Banks 1, Freeman 6 Sarah Redfern 0, Pat Bros Liverpool 10 Cabramatta 1, Bossley Park 11 Bonnyrigg 0, Thomas Reddall 5 Airds 0, Newcastle 2 Raymond Terrace 1, Mayfield Christ 3 Kotara 0, West Wallsend 11 Gateshead 2, Broadmeadow 3 Waratah 1, Woolgoolga 4 Coffs Harbour 0, Coffs Harbour Christ 2 Nambucca 0, Dorrigo 6 Macksville 0, Bellingen 2 Toormina 1, Tweed River 3 St Josephs 0, Grafton 3 South Grafton 1, Catherine McAuley 3 Maclean 2, Casino 3 Bonaibo 1, Wauchope 7 Kendall 0, Northlakes 2 Wyong 1, Trinity Christ 12 Canberra Grammar 0, Eden 4 Bega 0, Moruya 4 Batesmans Bay 0, Griffith 5 Leeton 0, Griffith Catholic 4 Wade 0, Hillston 3 Colleambally 0, Balranald 3 Hay 0, The Rock 7 Finley 0, Koorlingal 15 St Michaels Wagga 2, Mt Austin 2 Wagga Wagga 0,

Gundagai 3 Cootamundra 2, Junee 5 Tumut 2.

QUEENSLAND

QUALIFYING ROUND: Emmaus Rockhampton 3 Cathedral College 0, St Lukes Bundaberg 7 Rosedale 0, Glenala 3 Oxley 0, Cannel College 9, Ormiston 0.

R1: Ryan College Townsville 5 Cathedral School 0, William Ross 8 Ignatius Park 1, Blackwater 2 Emerald 0, Bildela 6 Moura 0, Glenmore 3 Mount Morgan 0, Rockhampton State 5 Rockhampton Grammar 0, Yeppoon 4 Emmaus 1, Mtnduberra 3 Monto 1, Maryborough 2-3 Aldridge 2-2, Gympie 2-6 James Nash 2-5, Immanuel 3 Kawana Waters 0, Caoundra 2 Maroochydore 1, Pine Rivers 3 Bray Park 1, Sandgate 4 Nashville 3, St Pauls Bald Hills 5 St Pars Shorncliffe 3, Everton Park 3 Albany Creek 0, Aspley 4 Craigslea 0, Nudgee College 3 St Columbas 0, Kelvin Grove 1 Gregory Terrace 0, Kingaroy 3 Murgon 0, Quenalow 3 Oakley 0, St Josephs Toowoomba 9 Downlands 0, Concordia 3 Toowoomba State 2, Lowood 3 Toogoolawah 0, Bremer 3 Ipswich State 0, St Edmunds 2 Ipswich Grammar 0, St Peter Claver 5 Bundamba 1, Westside Christ 3 Redbank Plains 2, St Laurence 10 Glenala 0, Brisbane Boys 1 Marish Ashgrove 0, Marist Rosalie 9 Toowong 2, Park Ridge 5 Brown Plains 3, St Francis 6 Marsden 2, Springwood 3 Rochedale 0, Clairvaux McKillop 5 Mansfield 0, Cavendish Road 3 Holland Park 0, Wynnum 1 Anglican Grammar 0, Alexandra Hills 3 Capalaba 0, Boonah 7 Kooralbyn Inter 0, Windaroo 7 Beaudesert 0, Beerleigh 3 Rivermont College 2, Trinity 10 Canterbury College 0, St Michaels 7 Emmanuel College 0, Somerset College 7 Kings Christ 3.

The Northern NSW Federations Board of Directors has endorsed a recommendation from its First and Second Division clubs to a "Final Five" series play-off in 1996.

Two of the Northern NSW Federations First Division clubs have answered a challenge from the Federations Country Associations of North West and New England and will travel to Tamworth this weekend the 25th and 26th May to compete against representative teams from both of those associations.

The games for the challenge will be played at Scully Park in Tamworth. With the Country Associations starved of senior representative soccer on a regular basis, the Northern NSW Federation will be looking for a successful weekend which could see the challenge become an annual event that would involve other Association and Federation clubs.

CHALLENGE DRAW

SATURDAY MAY 25

North West	v	Broadmeadow Magic	1.00pm
New Zealand	v	East Maitland Magpies	3.00pm

SUNDAY MAY 26

New England	v	Broadmeadow Magic	11.00pm
North West	v	East Maitland Magpies	1.00pm

Two of Newcastle leading goalscorers in the Northern NSW First Division competition are having a two way battle for the outright lead, Brett McCauley from the Highfields Wolves and Ian Tressidder from the Weston Workers Bears have both scored nine goals so far this season.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

BY PHIL MURPHY

Former Wollongong City coach John Fleming is back coaching with Premier League side Wollongong Olympic. He hasn't made any new friends among referees.

After Olympic beat West-Figree two weeks ago, Fleming was critical of referee Bob Mazevski then on Saturday he was even more critical of Tony Hart.

After Port Kembla beat Olympic 2-0 with Hart in charge, Fleming said the standard of refereeing in the Premier League was an embarrassment to the ISA.

Even some Port Kembla supporters would have backed Fleming up about one particular decision made by Hart.

In the first half, Port Kembla goalkeeper flattened Olympic striker Manny Mavridis in the box but the referee allowed play to continue.

Fleming and Olympic officials were adamant the ISA should make sure the best referees are appointed to the most important fixtures.

In other Saturday games, Fernhill opened their winning account 2-0 against Northern United at Towradgi Park, Richard Peil and replacement Craig Birch finding the net.

Cringila beat Westderra 2-1 at Unanderra Oval, Rade Stefanovski and Bobby Tupanceski (penalty) getting the goals with Michael Clare replying for 'Derra.

At Graham Park, Figtree and Coniston provided 90 minutes of sheer boredom in a scoreless draw.

League leaders Lysaghts disposed of Bulli 3-0 in Sunday's feature match at Brandon Park.

Lysaghts made the most of the fact that Bulli had four regulars missing and always looked strong in midfield.

Jason Spencer, John Danzo and Phil Matias (penalty) scored the goals and Spencer was named man of the match.

Just like old times at Coniston on Saturday. After Vasco Sekuloski was sacked as first team coach after just four games, Harry Sattin returned to the club in place of caretaker coach Lupcho Dafkovski.

Sattin had the Coniston job for three years, arguably the club's most successful period. Also back at Kelly Park is striker Dean Gardiner.

A Wollongong White eagles player could be in hot water. Seems he was sent from the field during Saturday's first division game against Kiama at Kiama.

He faces a charge of making a particularly obscene gesture to spectators and will probably appear before the judiciary committee tomorrow night.

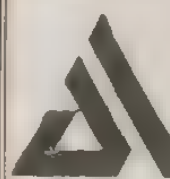
Paul Keating got the boot from the electors but some people are wondering if he has found a new claim to fame.

Newly promoted Dapto have made a very good start to the season and striker Paul Keating is playing a major role.

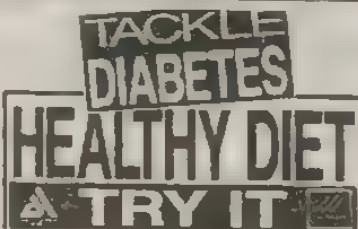
Electors at the Dapto-Balgownie match on Saturday voted Keating man of the match.

He scored both goals in his team's 2-1 win and was a constant menace to the Balgownie defence.

There will be no premier league games this weekend because of the annual Illawarra-Newcastle clash at Brandon Park.



DIABETES
AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA



TACKLE DIABETES



Review After Fourteen Rounds

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SATURDAY, 26TH MAY ROUND 10

Western Suburbs	v	Northcote City
Glen Eira City	v	Moorabbin City
Kingston City	v	S'vale Wht Eagles
Croydon City	v	Preston Lions
Werribee City	v	Richmond
Br'meadows City	v	Westgate

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO SATURDAY, 26TH MAY ROUND 10

Oakleigh	v	Sth. Dandenong
Waverley City	v	Altona Bast.
East Richmond	v	Altona City
Ess. Bruns. Royals	v	Mooroolbark
Frankston Pines	v	Westvale
Nunawading City	v	Regent-Bulla
Bell Park	v	Knox City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE SATURDAY, 25TH MAY ROUND 10

Frankston	v	Cranbourne
Fitzroy City	v	Pascoe Vale
Diamond Valley Utd.	v	Sth. Werribee
Sth. Caulfield	v	Ringwood City
Melbourne City	v	Sth. Springvale
Keilor Eagles	v	Banyule City
Chelsea	v	Clifton Hill

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR SATURDAY, 25TH MAY ROUND 10

Williamstown	v	Geelong
Sunshine Heights	v	Langwarrin
Sunbury Utd.	v	Nth. Coburg Utd.
Sandringham City	v	Seaford Utd.
Yarraville	v	Moreland City
Lalor	v	Stonnington City
Corio	v	Monbulk

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SATURDAY, 25TH MAY ROUND 9

Glenroy	v	Nth. Sunshine
Heidelberg City	v	Keysborough
Sth. Wantima	v	Knox Park
Mornington	v	Ballarat
S'vale Condors	v	Doreton
Melton	v	Old Scotchwhawt
Mitcham Utd.	v	Geelong Rangers

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO SATURDAY, 25TH MAY ROUND 9

Hampton Park Utd.	v	Brunswick City
South Yarra	v	East Nun. Eagles
Lyndale Utd.	v	Braeside Utd.
Berwick City	v	Dandenong
Meadow Park	v	Brandon Park
Endeavour Utd.	v	Nth. Glenroy
Croxton	v	Hoppers Crossing

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE METROPOLITAN SATURDAY, 25TH MAY ROUND 7

Melb. Uni Rangers	v	Keilor Utd.
Parkmore	v	Br'meadows Utd.
Ringwood Rovers	v	Monash Uni
Riversdale	v	Ashburton
T'stowe Eagles	v	Uni Melb. Blues
Elwood City	v	Newb/Yallourn

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE SOUTH/EAST/CENTRAL SUNDAY, 26TH MAY ROUND 7

Yarra Utd.	v	Endeavour Hills
Nth. Caulfield	v	East Kew
Oakleigh Utd.	v	Collingwood City
Noble Park	v	Cam. Gr. Old Boys
Fern Falcons	v	Wav. Wanderers
Thornbury	v	Ivanhoe Utd.

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE NORTH/WEST SUNDAY, 26TH MAY ROUND 7

Mill Park	v	Latrobe Uni
Nth. Reservoir	v	Keon Park
Northern Utd.	v	Diamond Valley
Sunshine Park	v	Darebin Utd.
Sydenham Park	v	West Preston
Upfield	v	Whittlesea Utd.

BY JOHN KRAS AND
DWAYGT TUFFNELL

ALBION REDSOX

Coaches: John Dowie replaced by Bill Murray replaced by Claude Lucchesi.

Leading goalscorer: Levent Osman 3 goals.

ABSW leading vote getter: Justin Geri 4 votes.

Reaching last seasons finals series one would expect the Albion Redsox to be challenging for the top five again but it is not to be.

Albion are in last position with only one win from 14 games, that victory coming against Port Melbourne Sharks in round 12.

The Redsox demolished Port 5-1, it was Claude Lucchesi's first game in charge after taking over from Bill Murray who did not gain one point in his time as coach.

Albion have gained the services of Sonny Sevin on



loan from Morwell Falcons and Carlos Retre from Port Melbourne who scored on his full debut in round 14 against Springvale City Vales.

ALTONA MAGIC

Coaches: Ian Dobson replaced by Gary Cole.

Leading goalscorer: Sash Becvinovski, 10.

ABSW leading vote getter: Chris Emovski.

Last years champions are again proving to be a threat for the title this season with new recruit Sash Becvinovski being a major hit with 10 goals.



REST OF THE TEAMS
WILL BE FEATURED IN
NEXT WEEK'S EDITION

Coach Gary Cole has a settled squad and the possible loan signing's of former players John Markovski and Ice Kutlesovski from the Melbourne Knights will only strengthen the Magic outfit.

The highly underrated Nick Georgopoulos has also been instrumental with the setting up of many of Becvinovski's goals.

Altona are sitting in third position and seems they will consolidate their position with many more victories.

BENTLEIGH GREENS

Coach: Harry Chalkitis

Leading goalscorers: Ike Alagiozidis and Zoran Todorovski both 10 goals.

ABSW leading vote getter: Ike Alagiozidis 25 votes.

The new kids on the block, Bentleigh, are sitting in second spot in the Premier League all thanks to Ike Alagiozidis the most outstanding player in the league so far.

Bentleigh's most impressive win this season was in round 13 with a 1-0 result against Heidelberg United.

On current performance the Green machine are set for a top five position and leading the way will be Alagiozidis, 39 year old goalkeeper Peter Laumets, former South Melbourne player Harris Michiel and Andy Theoraios.

If fully fit Zora Todorovski who has gone overseas will be back in time for the finals and coach Harry Chalkitis will not hesitate in using the striker.

BOX HILL INTER

Coach: Robert Ruffolo.

Leading goalscorer: Peter Petrakos 6 goals.

ABSW leading vote getter: Sean Keogh 8 votes.

Box Hill Inter were the side that many Premier League coaches regarded as the best side to miss out last years finals series.

But with big things predicted for this season, Inter started slowly and had to wait until round six for their first win.

They are currently sitting in 10th position with 14 points but have struggled against the higher placed

teams.

A 3-3 draw with Heidelberg United was the best they could manage with a top five side.

The second half of the season was when Box Hill played at it best last year, but once again they face a tough task to make the finals.

BULLEEN LIONS

Coaches: Peter Ollerton and Andy Bozikas.

Leading goalscorer: Dale White 11 votes.

ABSW leading vote getter: Dale White 11 votes.



Last years runner up Bulleen are in an unfamiliar situation being outside the top five.

The tightest competition in years has forced the Lions into seventh place and five points out of the five.

Coach Peter Ollerton resigned and the club went for an old favourite in Andy Bozikas.

Pre season signing Angie Goutzioulis departed for second division team Westvale but leading scorer Dale White has played well and always scores important goals.

Bulleen have not missed out on the top five since the finals concept was introduced but might find it difficult to make it this time around.

FAWKNER BLUES

Coaches: Tony Vrzina and Mike Rainey.

Leading goalscorer: Peter Psaros 3 goals.

VICTORIA PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Suns. Georgies	4	12	2	0	26	8	38
Bent. Greens	4	11	1	2	36	13	34
Altona Magic	14	10	1	3	31	14	31
Heidelberg Utd	14	8	3	3	34	18	27
Thomast. Zebras	14	7	3	4	24	20	24
North Geelong	14	6	2	6	18	23	20
Bulleen Lions	14	5	4	5	18	16	19
Green Gully	14	4	6	4	19	19	18
Port Melbourne	14	3	6	5	26	28	15
Box Hill Inter	14	4	2	8	18	30	14
St Albans	14	3	3	8	15	22	12
Fawkner	14	2	3	9	14	30	9
Springvale City	14	2	2	10	16	35	8
Albion	14	1	2	11	12	31	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS

15 — Despotovski (Heidelberg)

11 — Nilo (Sunshine)

ABSW leading vote getter: Tony Schipano 8 votes.

Fourteen rounds in, the Fawkner Blues are hovering dangerously around the relegation zone.

Not being able to field a settled side meant poor results which in turn spelled the end for coach Tony Vrzina.



New coach Mike Rainey has been in charge since round eight and has guided the club to its only two wins, one of those being against the Thomastown Zebras.

The Blues are the second lowest goalscorers in the competition with 14 goals. Peter Psaros has three.

But with the players of the calibre of Psaros, Michael Branov and Tony Schipano and the

emergence of youngsters Ricky Ferla and Marco Di Sauro Fawkner may just have enough to avoid the drop.

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

Coach: Chris Taylor

Leading goalscorer: Jani Suric 4 goals.

ABSW leading vote getter: Chris Vella 6 votes.

If Green Gully fail to make the finals series they will look back at round 14 as the one that got away.

Visiting North Geelong Warriors keeper Joey Didulica saved two penalties and held the Cavaliers to a 2-2 draw.

Indeed this could become a 'what might' have been season for the Cavs.

Six draws and a couple of narrow losses could have easily turned in their favour.

Although the side doesn't score freely having only scored 19 goals this season, with players like Tony Necesk, Daniel Genovesi, Vlad Babic and Jani Suric around they certainly don't lack



RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887

SUNDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE

◆ Premier League
◆ State League Div. 1
◆ Provisional
League Divisions 4&5

(Updated by 6.30pm
each Sunday evening)

0055 38878

SATURDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE

◆ Premier League
◆ State League
Divisions
1 to 3

(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)

0055 38898

SATURDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE

◆ State League
Division 4
◆ Provisional
League Divisions 1-3

(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)

(PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 0055 38878)

TOUR CANCELLED

In what came as tragic news just last Thursday, the four nation tournament in Brazil in which Australia was to compete has been cancelled. The Australians were due to fly out yesterday.

Organisation and communications with hosts Brazil had been progressing as normal up until Wednesday, before the shock letter was picked up off the fax first thing Thursday morning at the AWSA office.

Apparently a logistical problem with the tournament venue would not allow the planned live television coverage to go ahead. No local stations would pick up the telecast, and without television, the sponsors refused to put up the money, leaving Brazil with no finances to hold the tournament.

As a result the whole tour has been called off, which was also to include a trip to Orlando, USA for two games against the former World Champions.

"It's not worth going all the way to the USA for two matches — that would be poor usage of our resources," said National coach Tom Sermanni. "It's very very disappointing for the players, especially the new ones."

With the cancellation occurring at such a late stage, everything is affected. Apart from the bitter disappointment after gearing oneself up both physically and mentally for such an event, much work and effort has been put into tour organisation.

Monies have already been laid out, players have organised time off work and got their necessary injections.

But there is hopefully some consolation for all those involved. "We are trying now to organise something for the beginning of July to USA, when all the teams start to arrive for the Olympics," advised Sermanni. "Whatever is organised, the same team will be going."



Tom Sermanni: Not worth going to USA for two matches.

CUP UPSET

Round One of the SAWSA Quit League Cup, held a week ago, saw the first major upset with Fourth Division newcomers Gepps Cross causing sensation to beat Division One outfit Adelaide CSC.

With the score deadlocked at 1-1 after extra-time, the Gepps Cross sharp shooters rocked their high flying opponents to win 5-3 on penalties.

Coach Dave Trubee was over the moon with the performance of his young side, which includes his talented daughters Debbie and Michelle.

SHE'S NO LADY

A female soccer player in Italy has been banned for a year for assaulting the referee who sent her off.

Silvia Cacioli was found to have "insulted and intentionally assaulted the referee with a kick in the leg", her local amateur league said in a statement. The referee was not hurt.

Cacioli lashed out after the referee dismissed her for kicking another player in her club Arezzo's game against Piano di Mommio last month.

ALAGICH ON WATER

When Australian defender Dianne Alagich collapsed to the ground with a serious knee injury eight weeks ago in Auckland, it looked to be a double tragedy for the 16-year-old.

The occasion was the Australia v Korea clash, the Aussies' second match of the M-Wey Tri-Series, with Alagich carried off after just 12 minutes.

The match marked the first time Alagich had been a member of the starting 11 in a full international, having come off the bench the previous day for the game against New Zealand.

The youngest member of the team which contested the US Women's Cup last July, she had seen few actual minutes on the park. The untimely injury meant not only would she not play a full game, but would be forced to watch from the sidelines for the remainder of the tour.

Over her two international tournaments, Alagich has played only about an hour of football.

But this was only half the problem. The athletic Alagich is also star material in kayaking, and had recently been named as a member of the Australian junior team set to tour Europe. Alagich looked to also be missing out on the highlight of her kayaking career to date — the injury could not have come at a worse time, it seemed.

But fortune favours the brave. Amazingly, Alagich has since been given the all clear to compete in Europe, and actually jetted off yesterday with the kayak team.

Diagnosed on her return from

Auckland as a torn cruciate ligament, Alagich is booked in for reconstruction surgery as soon as she returns from Europe. The massive initial swelling has now subsided, and she is able to walk without problems on it now, although she has lost much of her muscle definition in the leg.

Alagich has been undergoing intense physiotherapy as well as gym work to strengthen the muscles around the knee in her campaign to prove herself fit for Europe.

Unable to do anything related to soccer, her full concentrations have been on her leg and kayaking.

"It's been alright," said a happy Alagich of her leg on the eve of her departure. "I don't really need it — the movement I'm using (in the kayak) doesn't affect my knee. The legs are used for stability and a bit of leg drive, but it doesn't really hurt it. I'm pretty pleased I can still go away for something."

The Australian Junior Kayak team, consisting of five girls and eight boys, will spend over four weeks in Europe, returning on June 24.

They will contest international regattas in France and Germany, before the tour culminates in Hungary for the number one junior event — the Junior World Cup.

Alagich, now just turned 17, has been selected to compete in two events — the K4-500 (Kayak-4 crew 500m race) and the K2-500. Over the many events, Australia is ranked about ninth in the world.

"I'm hoping to win a medal," said a quietly confident Alagich "We're probably more favoured in the K4-



Dianne Alagich: Unfit for soccer but OK for kayaking.

500."

As well as being a member of the SA ITC squad under coach Kevin McCormack, Alagich holds a SA Sports Institute scholarship in kayaking. Her coach David Foureux is also her Australian coach.

Whilst overseas, the Juniors will meet up with the senior Australian squad, who left a fortnight earlier and are undergoing Olympic qualifiers.

Alagich took up kayaking at age 13 after watching her brother. Showing obvious natural talent, she gained her SASI scholarship two years ago, her selection into for the Junior world cup came as a result of her performances at the National Championships held in March at

Penrith in Sydney's west.

In 1995 proved to be an incredible year for Alagich on the football pitch. She was a member of the victorious National Youth team which won the prestigious Dallas Cup, as well as captaining the Australian Junior team on its undefeated tour of New Zealand.

Then selection into the Australian team to take on Norway, USA and Chinese Taipei. And all achieved in the space of four months.

Training at an elite level over two sports is a four hour a day, seven day a week affair for Alagich. Although there is obvious overlap, fortunately the two sports are concentrated over opposite seasons, kayaking essentially a summer sport.

But the typical Alagich schedule would make most normal people wince. Normally she would go to kayak training in the morning, then gym in the afternoon, before soccer training.

Then on top of all her sporting commitments, there's Year 12 high school. "But I don't do much of that," she said with a wry smile. "It's all good time management, I suppose."

"With all the training required, eventually I'll have to make a choice, probably in the next year or two."

"I like soccer better," said the youngster who hails from a soccer mad family with four brothers who all play. "Because it's a team sport and it's more fun — it's my favourite."

And after surgery, when will the talented defender return to soccer? "I can't really say, but I'm hoping a couple of months."

ACT ANNOUNCE JUNIOR TEAM

ACT has named its State U/16 team to contest the Australian Junior Championship in July on Queensland's Gold Coast.

The team will make the trip as defending Champions after last year surprising many in winning the grand final and taking out the state's first ever National Title.

"This year we are going for back to back titles," said State U/16 coach Katrina Alexander of her side consisting of many of those 1995 Championship players. "But it won't be easy, especially when the other states will be just as determined to win."

Noticeably absent from this year's Championship will be traditional favourites New South Wales, who declared last year they would not be contesting the event.

Soccer NSW has decided it cannot justify the expense of sending away one junior team and prefers instead to utilise the monies over wider junior development areas, where a greater number of young players will benefit.

"It's a pity NSW may not be attending," said ACTWSA President Tracey McKnight. "After all, that's

what the national Championships are all about, pitting yourself against the best in each State and trying to make the Australian team."

It will be very difficult for National coach Tom Sermanni to justify picking NSW players if they don't attend the titles."

ACT JUNIOR TEAM 1996

AMY BEATTIE
PEITA-CLAIRE
HEPPERLIN
SARAH MEIR
DANIELLE
HEPPERLIN
KIRSTI WELLING
DIOR FOXHILL
AMY WILSON
DANICA RALSTON
RACHEL ENGLISH
SAM SHEEDY
FELICITY COX
MICHELLE TIFAN
LAURA JENNINGS
KIM CHANNING
ANGELA
OSTRENKOVICS
MICHELLE SINGER

Shadow Players:

KYLIE CLARKE
BRONWYN TOMS
TENEALE BRAY

South Coast make schools history

Country regional side South Coast last week made history in taking out the NSW Combined High Schools Championship at Marconi for the first time ever.

South Coast beat favourites Met South West in the final in a penalty shootout with a 2-2 scoreline after

extra-time.

Ashleigh Hewson from the Champion team won Player of the Tournament. Two NSW CHS teams were selected, and will contest the NSW All-Schools Tournament on 17-18 June.

NSW CHS 1sts

PELAY INGLES
RACHEL HAMILTON
JENNY JACQUES
RENAE BEVAN
KERRYNN THIRTLE
KRISTY DUGOMANOV
DANIELLE CLARKE
ASHLEIGH HEWSON
DONNA MARSDEN
ROCHELLE DOYLE
MELISSA LINK
TRACY BAKER
CARLY COPELAND
HELEN KALITHRAKIS
ALICIA CAVAGH
KELLY COLEBIOWSKI

Shadow Players:

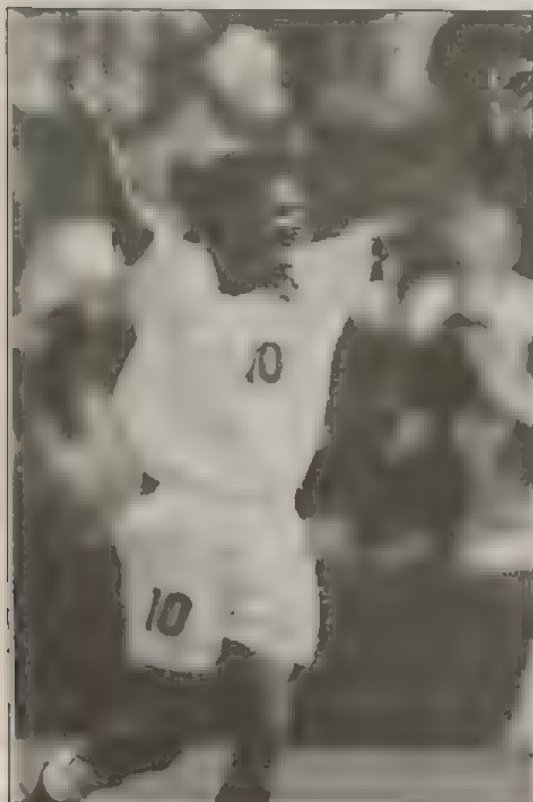
PATRICIA CALLIGAS
SKYE GARRATT
KRISTY PALOZZI
AMANDA JOHNSON

NSW CHS 2nds

TONI CRONK
KRISTY WRIGHT
COREY McWHINNIE
LISA RICHARDS
KASEY MASTERS
CHRISTINE COLLINS
LISA COLLINS
NADINE NORMAN
TIANNE SMITH
STEPHANIE HATCHER
KELLIE NORTHAM
JODIE RANDALL
CARA WEBB
NICOLE MALLOY
AMANDA POULTON

AMY SMALLPAGE
JESSICA SYNE
KELLY DARK
TONI COWAN

EURO 96 - THE BUILD UP

BAGGIO & SIGNORI
LEFT OUT OF SQUAD

Roberto Baggio: His goals took Italy to World Cup Final.

Roberto Baggio, whose goals took Italy to the 1994 World Cup final, was axed last week from the squad for next month's European championship tournament in England.

Baggio, who has struggled in the Serie A this season after leaving Juventus for AC Milan, was the main absentee in a 22-man squad announced here by national coach Arrigo Sacchi.

Also out was Giuseppe Signori, whose 24 goals for Lazio made him the heading scorer in Italy for the third time in the last four years.

Although Italy's defence remains largely untouched, given the international retirement last year of skipper Franco Baresi, Sacchi has re-shuffled his men in midfield and up front.

Baggio, whose winners got Italy through the second round, quarter-finals and semis in the United States, had made way for Parma's Gianfranco Zola, the key to Italy's qualifying campaign for Euro 96.

Lazio's Pierluigi Casiraghi is the only surviving striker from USA '94, and is joined by Juventus' Fabrizio Ravanelli and the revelation of Italian soccer, 25-year-old Enrico Chiesa of Sampdoria.

Roberto Donadoni, who is leaving AC Milan after 10 seasons for a new life in Major League soccer in the States, remains as a defensive midfielder, as does Milan's



Demetrio Albertini.

The unrelated Dino Baggio, whose header against Norway in the group phase of USA '94, when Italy was down to 10 men, put his side into the second round, also keeps his place. The squad is:

Angelo Peruzzi (Juventus), Francesco Toldo (Fiorentina), Luca Bucci (Parma), Roberto Mussi (Parma), Moreno Torricelli (Juventus), Alessandro Costacurta (Milan), Ciro Ferrara (Juventus), Luigi Apolloni (Parma), Paolo Maldini (Milan), Amedeo Carboni (Roma), Angelo Di Livio (Juventus), Diego Fuser (Lazio), Demetrio Albertini (Milan), Roberto Di Matteo (Lazio), Antonio Conte (Juventus), Dino Baggio (Parma), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus), Roberto Donadoni (Milan), Gianfranco Zola (Parma), Enrico Chiesa (Sampdoria), Fabrizio Ravanelli (Juventus), Pier Luigi Casiraghi (Lazio).

'Group of death' squad

Recalling 11 veterans of his unsuccessful 1994 World Cup campaign, Germany coach Berti Vogts said last week his team had a good chance of doing well at the European championships.

Vogts refused to be drawn into the role of favourite, although some experts see Germany as the team to beat.

Vogts, announcing his 22-man roster, said 10-12 teams were capable of winning the title at next month's 16-nation championship in England, and that Croatia was his dark horse.

England, as host, also will play a special role, Vogts predicted.

Top striker Juergen Klinsmann leads the 11 World Cup veterans Vogts retained, but Lothar Matthaeus, Klinsmann's predecessor as captain, was dropped, as expected.

Matthaeus, 35, who has four World Cup campaigns and three European Championships behind him, announced last week that lingering fitness problems following Achilles tendon surgery would rule him out for Euro 96.

"We have a well-balanced squad with a healthy mixture. We have experienced players from 1994, and we have 11 players with no tournament experience who are hungry for international success," Vogts told a news conference.

"If we overcome health problems and still improve our game, we have a good chance of clearing the first round.

"But our group is the so-called 'Group of Death,' where we are second on FIFA's rankings, Russia is third, Italy fourth and the Czech Republic 10th. It doesn't get tougher than that."

Vogts will be under pressure to return with the title.

Under his guidance, Germany was upset by Denmark in the final of the 1992 European Championships in Sweden.

In 1994, Germany went to the United States to defend its World Cup title, only to be knocked out by Bulgaria in the quarter-finals.

Vogts left out two of Klinsmann's former forward partners — Karlheinz Riedle of Borussia Dortmund and Ulf Kirsten of Bayer Leverkusen. Riedle is struggling to return to shape following a long injury, while Kirsten has had a poor season.

Instead, two foreign-based strikers got the nod, 33-year-old veteran Stefan Kuntz of Besiktas Istanbul and Oliver Bierhoff, 28, of the Italian league Udinese, who has scored two goals in three national team games. Stuttgart's Fredi Bobic was also included.

Goalkeepers:

12-Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich, 3 caps)
22-Stefan Klos (Borussia Dortmund, 0 caps)
1-Andi Koepke (Eintracht Frankfurt, 32).

Defence:

14-Markus Babel (Bayern Munich, 13)
5-Thomas Helmer (Bayern Munich, 45),
15-Juergen Kohler (Borussia Dortmund, 81)
2-Stefan Reuter (Borussia Dortmund, 51)
6-Matthias Sammer (Borussia Dortmund, 39)
16-Rene Schneider (Hansa Rostock, 1)
Midfield:
13-Mario Basler (Werder Bremen, 16)
3-Marco Bode (Werder Bremen, 1)
21-Dieter Elts (Werder Bremen, 14)
4-Steffen Freund (Borussia Dortmund, 13)
10-Thomas Haessler (Karlsruhe, 72)
7-Andreas Moeller (Borussia Dortmund, 58)
8-Mehmet Scholl (Bayern Munich, 6)
19-Thomas Strunz (Bayern Munich, 25),
17-Christian Ziege (Bayern Munich, 16)

Attack:

20-Oliver Bierhoff (Udinese, 3)
9-Fredi Bobic (VfB Stuttgart, 6)
18-Juergen Klinsmann (Bayern Munich, 82)
11-Stefan Kuntz (Besiktas, 16)

Teen stars overlooked

Spanish coach Javier Clemente has overlooked Real Madrid's 18-year-old Raul and Barcelona's 19-year-old Ivo De La Pena for his European championship squad.

Clemente decided to stick largely by the squad which reached the World Cup quarter-finals and

keep the talented teenagers for Spain's defence of the Olympic title.

Goalkeepers:

Andoni Zubizarreta (Valencia),
Santiago Canizares (Real Madrid),
Jose Molina (Atletico Madrid).

Defenders:

Abelardo Fernandez (Barcelona),
Miquel Angel Nadal (Barcelona),
Sergi Barjuan (Barcelona),
Albert Ferrer (Barcelona),
Rafael Alkorta (Real Madrid),
Jorge Otero (Valencia),
Alberto Belsue (Zaragoza).

Midfielders:

Guillermo Amor (Barcelona),
Donato (Real Madrid),
Javier Manjarin (Real Madrid),
Jose Luis Caminero (Atletico Madrid),
Julen Guerrero (Athletic Bilbao).

Strikers:

Julio Salinas (Sporting Gijon),
Kiko Narvaez (Atletico Madrid),
Alfonso Perez (Real Betis),
Juan Pizzi (Tenerife),
Jose Amavisca (Real Madrid).



Albert Ferrer: One of four Barca defenders selected.

Kluivert let off lightly

Dutch soccer international Patrick Kluivert was found guilty of manslaughter for culpable driving last week receiving a three month suspended sentence and 240 hours of community work.

The 19-year old striker, who scored the winning goal for Ajax Amsterdam in the European Cup final against AC Milan last year, will still be available for this year's showdown, against Juventus tomorrow (Wednesday).

Kluivert was selected last week in Holland's Euro 96 squad.

Prosecutors said the offence warranted a nine month prison sentence with a three month suspended sentence.

A 56-year-old man died when his car was hit by Kluivert while reversing out of a parking space last September.

The young footballer, who had held his license for only a few months at the time of the accident, was driving a borrowed BMW at twice the speed limit — 104km/h in a 50km/h.

Kluivert, who did not enter an official plea but admitted to driving the car, also had his licence confiscated for 18 months.

Dutch coach Guus Hiddink last week announced the following squad for next month's European championship finals in England:

Goalkeepers — Edwin van der Sar

(Ajax), Ed de Goey (Feyenoord), Ruud Hesp (Roda JC).

Defenders — Michael Reiziger, Danny Blind, Frank de Boer, Winston Bogarde (all Ajax), Arthur Numan (PSV Eindhoven), Johan de Kock (Roda JC), John Veldman (Sparta).

Midfielders — Ronald de Boer, Edgar Davids (Ajax), Philip Cocu (PSV), Richard Witschge (Bordeaux), Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal), Clarence Seedorf (Sampdoria), Aron Winter (Lazio Roma).

Strikers — Peter Hoekstra, Patrick Kluivert (both Ajax), Gaston Taument (Feyenoord), Youri Mulder (Schalke), Jordi Cruyff (Barcelona).

BULGARIA
READY

Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev last week announced a squad of 22 players for the European Championships to be held in England from next month.

The squad:

Goalkeepers:

Borislav Mikhailov (Reading, England)
Dimitar Popov (CSKA)
Zdravko Zdravkov (Slavia)

Defenders:

Emil Kremenliev (Olympiakos, Greece)
Petar Houbchev (SV Hamburg, Germany)
Trifon Ivanov (Rapid Vienna, Austria)
Tsanko Tsvetanov (Mannheim, Germany)
Radostin Kichichev (Neftohimik)
Ilian Kirakov (Anorthosis, Cyprus)
Gocho Guintchev (Denisli, Turkey)
Midfielders and forwards:
Boncho Guenchev (Luton, England)
Ivailo Yordanov (Sporting Lisbon, Portugal)
Zlatko Yankov (Uerdingen, Germany)
Yordan Letchkov (Hamburg SV, Germany)
Krassimir Balakov (Stuttgart, Germany)
Nasko Sirakov (Slavia)
Georgi Donkov (CSKA)
Ivo Georgiev (Spartak Varna)
Emil Kostadinov (Bayern Munich, Germany)
Hristo Stoichkov (Parma, Italy)
Luboslav Penev (Atletico Madrid, Spain)
Daniel Borimirov (Munich 1860, Germany)

UEFA CUP FINAL

Bayern Munich joins elite

Juergen Klinsmann set a scoring record as Bayern Munich became only the fourth club to win all three European competitions when it beat Bordeaux 3-1 for a 5-1 aggregate win in the UEFA Cup final last Wednesday.

Goals from Mehmet Scholl in the 53rd minute, Emil Kostadinov in the 65th and the record-breaking goal from German international skipper Klinsmann in the 79th consolidated the Germans' grip on their first European trophy for 20 years after they established a 2-0 aggregate victory in the first leg.

Bordeaux replied with a goal from substitute Daniel Dutuel in the 75th minute.

Klinsmann's goal was his 15th in the UEFA Cup this season and made him the highest all-time individual scorer in one season in European competition.

The previous mark of 14 goals was shared by AC Milan's Jose Altafini (1962-63) and John Wark of

Ipswich Town (1980-81).

Thomas Helmer and Scholl had scored the goals which set the Germans on their way to success in Munich's Olympic Stadium two weeks ago. Bayern joined Ajax, Juventus and Barcelona as the only clubs to have won all three European competitions after their earlier successes in the Cup Winners' Cup in 1967 and the Champions' Cup in 1974, 1975 and 1976.

Bayern also won the world club championship in 1976, a feat achieved by Ajax and Juventus but not Barcelona. Last week's success went some way to compensating for their failure to lift the German title which has gone to Borussia Dortmund for the second successive season. Bordeaux, playing in their first European final after battling through a marathon campaign which started in last summer's Inter Toto Cup qualifiers, kept battling away during a tense first half but failed to break-down the Germans' tight defence.

A powerful free kick by Zinedine Zidane, which went over the bar in the 11th minute, and a long range shot from Christophe Dugarry which went just wide in the 24th minute, were the only real scares for Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, who had played a key-role in his side's first leg win with a couple of brilliant saves.

But the French club were handicapped by the loss of captain and defender Bixente Lizarazu, who went off with an injured knee in the 32nd minute — an injury which could cost him his place in the French squad in next month's European championship finals in England.

While Bordeaux's efforts were in vain, Scholl and the Bulgarian Kostadinov killed off the French challenge with two strikes in the first 20 minutes of the second half.

A pass by Kostadinov allowed Scholl to open the scoring from inside the penalty area in the 53rd minute and 12 minutes

later, Kostadinov headed the ball into the net from a corner floated over by Scholl.

Those goals left Bordeaux with the impossible task of having to score five goals in 25 minutes but they managed to reduce the arrears with a free kick from Dutuel in the 75th minute.

But four minutes after that Klinsmann set his record by diverting in a shot from Thomas Strunz.

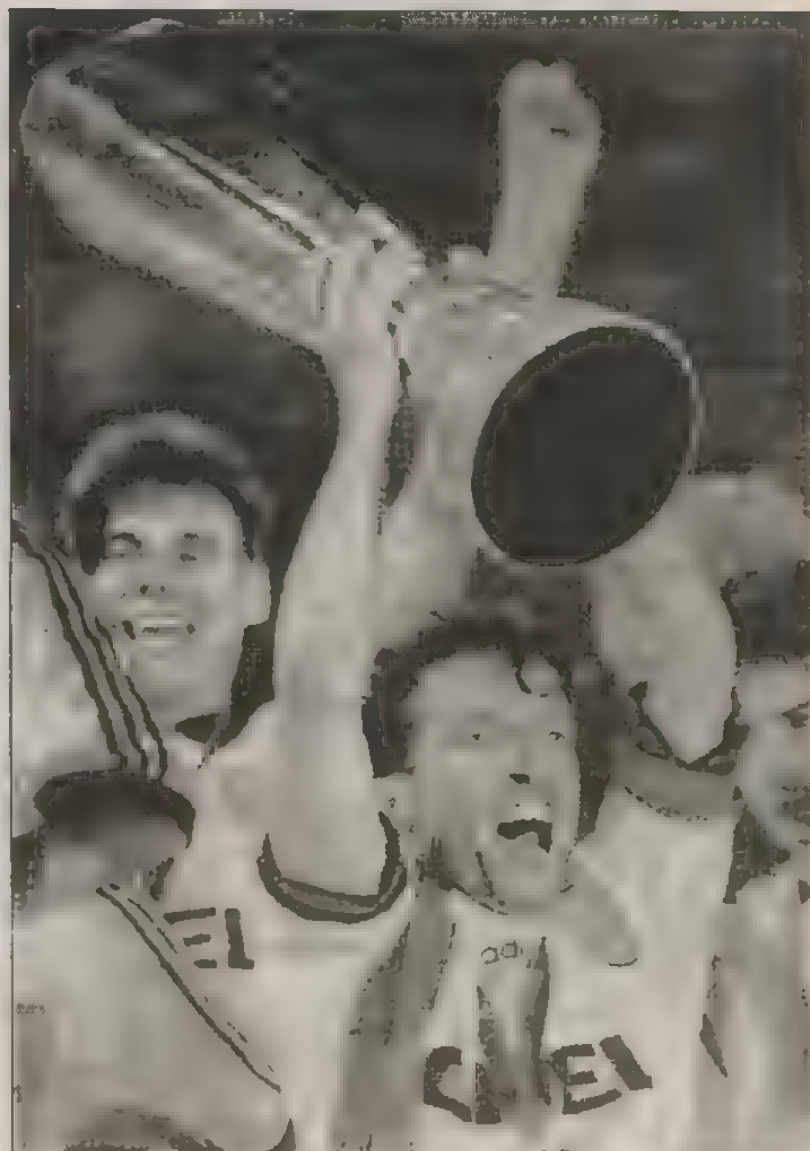
Victory came as a relief for Bayern chairman Franz Beckenbauer, who faced criticism after firing coach Otto Rehhagel to put himself in charge of the team just days before the first leg match against Bordeaux.

The 1,600 German fans were still celebrating loudly in the stands long after the final whistle.

Scorers:
Bordeaux - Daniel Dutuel (75)

Bayern Munich - Mehmet Scholl (53), Emil Kostadinov (65), Juergen Klinsmann (79).

Attendance: 36,000



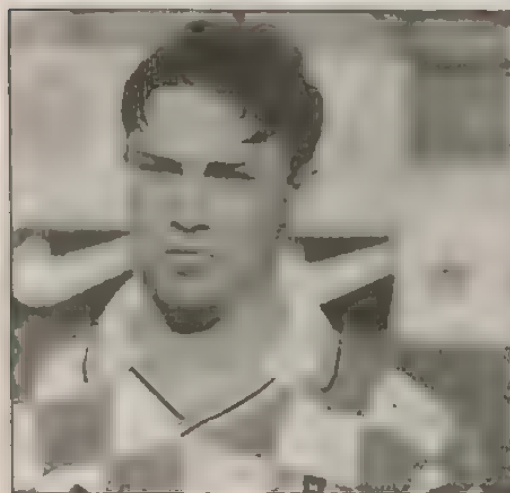
Lothar Matthaus holds UEFA cup aloft.

Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISKOVICH



Drazen Ladic: Dinamo's goalkeeper and captain.



Dario Simic: Recommended to Milan by Maldini Sr.

Dinamo Zagreb — European Cup hopes

Dinamo Zagreb are the Champion of Croatia and this week I will profile the team who will try to win its first Champions Cup of Europe.

1. Drazen Ladic: 22 caps for Croatia he is also the captain of Dinamo. The experience he gains in Euro 96 should prove vital in establishing Dinamo in Europe. (30 years old)

2. Dzevad Turkovic: 7 caps for Croatia and possibly the best right back in the country. Scored two goals for Dinamo this season but has been injured for the past four months which cost him his national team spot. Strangely he is a Montenegrin who lived in Zagreb and opted for Croat citizenship (23 years old)

3. Stefulj: U/21 international for Croatia and has one senior cap for Croatia. Bought from a rival club Varteks but since his arrival at Dinamo has become an international within one year. (19 years old)

4. Josip Gasper: 3 caps for Croatia and has scored four goals for Dinamo this season. (22 years old)

5. Dario Simic: U/21 for Croatia with two caps for the senior team. A player with potential and his number one fan is C. Maldini Italy's U/21 boss. Maldini Sr also told Milan officials to sign him for next season. Simic has scored two goals for Dinamo this season. (20 years old)

6. Zvonimir Soldo: 7 caps for Croatia and is the best Libero in the country. Currently talking with Serie A side Vicenza for next season but if he stays he will prove vital in the defence. (26 years old)

7. Stjepan Tomas: U/21 international for Croatia and represented the former Yugoslavia at all junior levels. A good midfielder who is strong on the ball. One goal for Dinamo. (20 years old)

8. Domagoj Kosic: U/21 international for Croatia and like Tomas a quality junior. One for Dinamo. (20 years

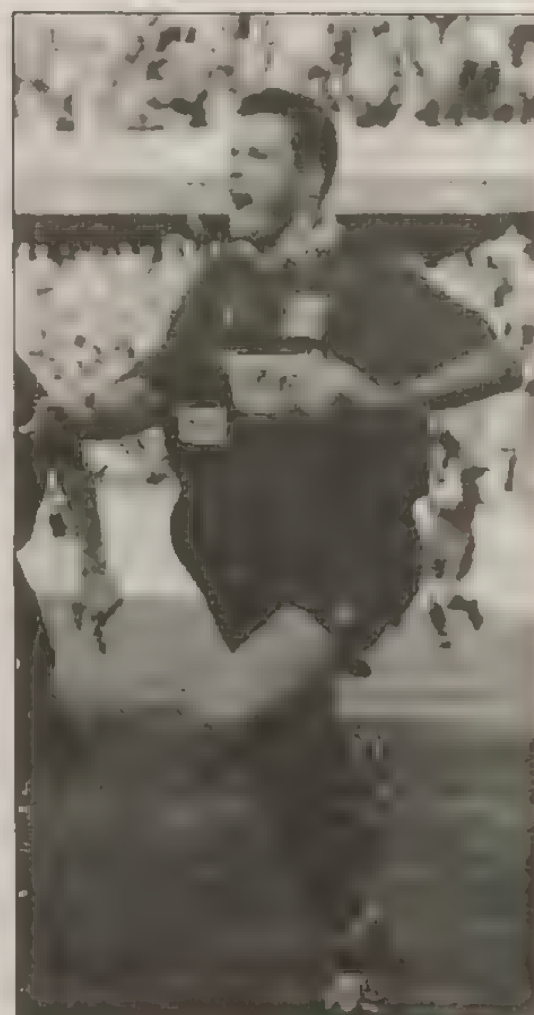
old)

9. Marko Viduka: Two caps for Australia and the only foreigner at the club. Equal second goalscorer in Croatia with 12 goals for Dinamo. A good future for a player who will finally be tested against real top teams at Europe in the Champions Cup (20 years old)

10. Tomislav Rukavina: the best junior prospect in Croatia. This midfielder is what Boban was at Dinamo a provider and a match winner. One cap for Croatia but a wild card for the squad for Euro 96. Transferred to Dinamo from FC Zagreb half way through this season. (22 years old)

11. Igor Cvitanovic: 8 caps for Croatia with 4 goals in those games. Top goalscorer in Croatia with 17 goals. Went to England and Middlesbrough but failed to get working visa so he came back to Croatia.

After Euro 96 will most likely leave for greener pasture i.e. Italy and Vicenza. (23 years old).



Marko Viduka: Well known to Aussie fans.

THE EUROPEAN CUP FINAL — AJAX AMSTERDAM v JUVENTUS

EUROPE'S 'GRAND FINAL'

PREVIEW BY HENRY WIZGIER

For all cognoscente of the game everywhere and followers of the European game in particular, this — is the peak of the club season and not, the FA Cup Final.

Quite simply this fixture determines no less than the official Champion football club of all Europe.

Yet for some reason, it will not capture the public's imagination like last week's jamboree at Wembley.

Most Australian sports fans probably thought that last Saturday night/Sunday morning they were witnessing the very peak of club football.

At the risk of upsetting United and Liverpool supporters, the probable fact is that what we saw last week were two slightly above average teams in European terms.

Had either Ajax or Juventus been eligible to play in the oldest of all football competitions, they would have strolled it and 'les enfant terrible' wouldn't have been given the time to line up his volley which the green and white shirts gave him.

The likes of Blind or

Vierchowod do not take their shadow's off their chosen men for two split seconds as did Wright, Scales and Babb.

It's a sad reflection of the present standard of the English game — as opposed to it's spectacle, which has been 'spectacular' this season.

So, who is going to add this to their already impressive collection of Euro-silverware?

For the record, Ajax lead Juve 4-1 in the Champions Cup roll of honour and if they make it 5, will slot alongside Milan in second place.

Real Madrid however still top the chart with 6 wins, the last of which was gained exactly 30 years ago.

The big criticism of this competition is that it is often 'a year too late'.

This, appears to be the case this year as Juve are literally, last year's Italian Champions whereas Ajax do not appear to be the side they were twelve months ago.

Physically, they may look similar but two players, Reiziger and Davids are now Milan players in all but print.

Having already won this Cup last May, you have to

ask whether they would still risk life and limb for the legendary white shirt with red vertical band.

I don't know the current Euro monetary scene but the fact is that on the football exchange the lira is far stronger than the guilder.

A mere couple of seasons in the red and black stripes will set these boys up for life. They are both still young and the world is their oyster so they will both want to reach the San Siro in one piece for the start of the next Serie A.

Then, there is Patrick Kluivert's recent off-the-field problems which threatened to disrupt his short but amazing career.

The scorer of last year's winner got himself embroiled in a messy business over speed — of the 'old' kind.

One involving wheels as opposed to tablets — though it does make a change from drugs, alcohol, air-guns or Kung-Fu kicking.

He got off lightly with 250 hours community service, but will have a suspended jail sentence hanging over his head for some time yet.

However, such is the Dutch tactical set up that goals are just as likely to come from the 'shadow-striker' who lurks behind the

front trio.

Jari Litmanen will be wearing the coveted number 10 shirt and his 8 goals in the tournament so far make him the leading scorer, but in this latest 'Total' team, goals can also come from any player wearing a number higher than 1.

As if impending departures and court cases weren't enough, question marks also hang over the fitness of several other key players.

Yet, such is their strength in depth, that as they showed in their Quarter Final 2nd Leg win over Borussia Dortmund, Ajax can still beat the best with half their regular team missing — or playing, whichever way you prefer it.

Juventus can match Ajax for skill in almost every department and better them on experience in most.

Vialli on his day is as lethal near goal as any striker in the world and if Ravinelli is fit, we will see just about the deadliest duo in Europe.

Vierchowod at the back will not let a fly go past him too easily, and he has a world-class partner in Ferrara.

In midfield, Juve will have their only previous Champions Cup medal winner in Deschamps who did it with Marseille, in 1993 as captain.

Del Piero is poised and hungry to take that last step which will put him up onto the world stage and this match, could be the perfect platform for him.

I wrote recently about a strange irony in football where teams often reach their greatest triumphs after losing their most celebrated individuals.

PSG have just done it without George Weah and I believe 'Baggio-less' Juve will do the same.

With home advantage, (if indeed the Turin club can call Rome — home),

and having put together a team to match the Platini, Rossi, Boniek Champions Cup Winning side of a decade ago, I take the Zebras to burst the Ajax bubble.

The game will be televised live from the Olympic Stadium in Rome by SBS Television on Thursday. Coverage starts at 5am.

Probable line-ups:

AJAX

Reiziger Blind F. deBoer Bogarde
R. de Boer Davids
Litmanen
Finidi Kluivert Kanu



Padovano Vialli

Del Piero

Deschamps

DiLivio

Paulo Sousa

Pessotto

Torricelli

Vierchowod

Ferrara

Peruzzi

JUVENTUS



Ciro Ferrara: Juve's world-class defender and probable sweeper.

Route to the Final - AJAX

Champions League	Real Madrid	1-0	2-0
"	Ferencváros (Hungary)	4-0	5-1
"	Grasshopper (Switz)	3-0	0-0
Quarter Final	Borussia Dortmund	2-0	1-0 (3-0)
Semi-Final	Panathinaikos (Greece)	0-1	3-0 (3-1)

Route to the Final - JUVENTUS

Champions League	Borussia Dortmund	1-2	3-1
"	Steaua Bucharest	3-0	0-0
"	Glasgow Rangers	4-1	4-0
Quarter-Final	Real Madrid	0-1	2-0 (2-1)
Semi-Final	Nantes	2-0	2-3 (4-3)



Patrick Kluivert: Will his recent off the field problems affect his game?

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

SWEDISH FIRST DIVISION

— May 13 —

Oster	1	Gothenburg	1
Trelleborg	3	Degerfors	1
Örebro	1	Norrköping	4
Djurgården	2	Oddevold	1
Umeå	2	AIK	0
Örgryte	0	Helsingborg	2
Malmö	4	Halmstad	1
Örebro	1	Norrköping	4

TABLE

Helsingborg	5	5	0	0	12	2	15
Gothenburg	5	3	2	0	11	3	11
Norrköping	5	3	1	1	10	4	10
Malmö	4	3	1	0	7	1	10
Oddevold	5	3	0	2	7	5	9
Halmstad	5	2	2	1	5	6	8
Umeå	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Örgryte	5	2	1	2	4	4	7
Oster	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
AIK	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Djurgården	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
Trelleborg	5	1	0	4	4	9	3
Örebro	5	0	1	4	2	9	1
Degerfors	4	0	1	3	5	15	1

TURKEY FIRST DIVISION

— May 13 —

Fenerbahçe	2	Istanbulspor	0
Besiktas	1	Galatasaray	2
Kocaelispor	1	Altay	1
Gaziantepspor	2	Gencelbirlik	0
Karsiyaka	1	Trabzonspor	4
Eskişehirspor	3	Samsunspor	0
Ankaragücü	2	Antalyaspor	1
Bursaspor	1	Kayserispor	2
Denizlispor	0	Vanspor	0

TABLE

Fenerbahçe	33	25	6	2	65	19	81
Trabzonspor	33	25	4	4	72	23	79
Besiktas	33	22	3	8	74	43	69
Galatasaray	33	20	5	8	66	38	65
Kocaelispor	33	16	11	6	61	42	59
Gaziantepspor	33	13	7	13	42	43	46
Antalyaspor	33	13	6	14	45	54	45
Bursaspor	33	10	11	12	55	46	41
Samsunspor	33	11	7	15	44	45	40
Gencelbirlik	33	9	11	13	39	47	38
Ankaragücü	33	10	7	16	35	54	37
Istanbulspor	33	8	11	14	46	53	35
Vanspor	33	8	11	14	32	47	35
Denizlispor	33	8	10	15	38	49	34
Altay	33	8	9	16	32	56	33
Eskişehirspor	33	10	2	21	39	61	32
Kayserispor	33	6	11	16	40	61	29
Karsiyaka	33	6	6	21	22	65	24

NORWEGIAN FIRST DIVISION

— May 13 —

Bodø/Glimt	1	Molde	3
Kongsvinger	2	Tromsø	2
Lillestrøm	3	Rosenborg	0
Moss	1	Viking	0
Start	0	Brann	2
Strømsgodset	2	Stabæk	2

TABLE

Lillestrøm	7	5	1	1	19	10	16
Rosenborg	6	4	1	1	21	6	13
Molde	7	4	0	3	18	9	12
Viking	7	2	4	1	11	7	10
Skjold	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
Strømsgodset	7	2	3	2	10	12	9
Brann	6	2	3	1	9	15	9
Tromsø	6	2	2	2	8	6	8
Bodø/Glimt	7	2	2	3	11	13	8
Stabæk	6	1	4	1	10	11	7
Moss	7	1	3	3	6	15	6
Kongsvinger	6	1	2	3	7	13	5
Start	6	1	1	4	8	13	4
Vaalerenga	6	1	1	4	4	12	4

EGYPTIAN FIRST DIVISION

— May 13 —

Al Ahly	1	APOL	2
El Dakhlyia	3	AEK	1
Parahim	0	Anorthosis	3
Arif	1	AEL	0
Evaghoras	0	Olympiakos	2
Salamina	1	Ethnikos	4
Apollon	5	Aradippou	0

TABLE

APOL Nicosia	25	18	7	0	61	20	61
Omonia Nicosia	25	16	5	4	66	29	53
Anorthosis	25	15	7	3	49	23	52
AEK	25	15	5	5	41	20	50
Apollon	25	10	10	5	42	26	40
Ethnikos Achna	25	8	10	7	33	33	34
Salamina	25	10	3	12	36	44	33
Parahim	25	8	8	9	35	38	32
Alki	25	8	7	10	41	43	31
Arif	25	6	10	9	32	35	28
Olympiakos	25	7	6	12	22	32	27
AEL	25	6	5	14	35	47	23
Evaghoras	25	2	7	16	20	57	13
Aradippou	25	0	2	23	18	84	2

DANISH SUPER LEAGUE

— May 13 —

Aarhus	3	Brøndby	3
Lyngby	0	Odense	1
FC Copenhagen	3	Aalborg	1
Viborg	6	Næstved	2
Hertofelge	4	Ikast	1
Silkeborg	3	Vejle	1

TABLE

Brøndby	30	18	6	6	64	31	60
Aarhus	30	16	11	3	57	27	59
Odense	29	15	7	7	59	29	52
Lyngby	29	13	10	6	56	29	49
Aalborg	30	14	5	11	52	35	47
FC Copenhagen	30	13	8	9	46	42	47
Silkeborg	29	13	5	11	38	36	44
Viborg	30	8	10	12	45	63	34
Vejle	30	7	8	17	28	48	34
Hertofelge	30	5	8	17	36	57	23
Ikast	30	5	8	17	27	57	23
Næstved	29	5	6	18	27	72	21

ENGLISH LEAGUE PROMOTION PLAY-OFF

SEMIFINAL, SECOND LEG

— May 15 —

Division One

Crystal Palace	1	Charlton	0
(Crystal Palace wins 3-1 on aggregate)			
Sheff Wed	0	Leicester	1
(Leicester wins 1-0 on aggregate)			

Division Two

Blackpool	0	Bradford	3
(Bradford wins 3-2 on aggregate)			
Notts County	1	Crewe	0
(Notts County wins 3-2 on aggregate)			

Division Three

Darlington	2	Hereford	1
(Darlington wins 4-2 on aggregate)			
Plymouth	3	Colchester	1
(Plymouth wins 3-2 on aggregate)			

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

— May 13 —

Eastern Conference

Tampa Bay	4	2	0	13	9	12
Columbus	3	3	0	14	10	9
New England	2	3	1	7	9	4
D.C.	1	6	0	7	13	3
NY-NJ	2	3	2	5	9	2

Western Conference

Los Angeles	5	0	0	11	5	15
Dallas	5	2	2	10	9	11
San Jose	3	4	0	10	8	9
Kansas City	3	4	1	13	18	7
Colorado	2	3	0	9	9	6

Teams are awarded three points for victory, one point for shootout win and none for a loss.

DUTCH CUP FINAL

— May 16 —

PSV Eindhoven	5	Sparta Rotterdam	2
Scorers:			
PSV - Philip Cocu (9), Marciano Vink (13), John Veldman (65, own goal), Wim Jonk (87), Bjorn van der Doelen (90)			
Sparta - Dave van der Meer (45), Dennis de Nooijer (79, penalty)			
Attendance: 25,000			

JAPANESE J.LEAGUE

— May 15 —

Iwata	3	Hiratsuka	4
Nagoya	1	Hiroshima	2
Osaka G.	3	Fukuoka	0
Ichihara	4	Yokohama F.	2
Kashima	1	Osaka C.	0

Yokohama M.	1	Kashiwa	2
Kawasaki	5	Shimizu	3
Urawa	1	Kyoto	0

TABLE

Yokohama F.	14	11	3	32	21	33
Kashima	14	10	4	36	17	31
Iwata	14	10	4	28	18	31
Urawa	14	10	4	22	12	31
Nagoya	14	9	5	31	20	27
Kashiwa	14	9	5	31	21	27
Kawasaki	14	7	7	30	26	21
Ichihara	14	7	7	23	20	21
Osaka G.	14	7	7	21	31	21
Yokohama M.	14	6	8	19	18	18
Hiroshima	14	6	8	14	16	18
Hiratsuka	14	6	8	19	28	18
Shimizu	14	5	9	25	28	16
Osaka C.	14	5	9	16	25	15
Fukuoka	14	4	10	18	33	12
Kyoto	14	0	14	5	36	0

Note: Losers in penalty shoot-outs are awarded 1 point.

SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP

— May 14 —

Basle	2	Servette	0
Grasshopper	3	Neuchatel	3
Lucerne	2	Sion	3
St Gallen	3	Aarau	4

TABLE

Grasshopper	14	8	6	0	26	7	52
Sion	14	8	2	4	20	14	47
Neuchatel	14	5	7	2	21	16	43
Aarau	14	7	4	3	23	18	39
Lucerne	14	4	3	7	23	19	35
Basle	14	3	4	7	11	20	28
Servette	14	2	5	7	18	25	25
St Gallen	14	2	3	9	11	34	23

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

— May 15 —

Washington DC	5	Columbus	2
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FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL

— May 18 —

England	3	Hungary	0
(halftime 1-0)			
Scorers: Darren Anderton (39 and 62 minutes), David Platt (52)			
Attendance: 34,184			

SCOTTISH FA CUP FINAL

— May 18 —

Rangers	5	Hearts	1
(halftime 1-0)			
Scorers: Rangers - Brian Laudrup (37 and 49 minutes), Gordon Durie (66, 79 and 85)			
Hearts - John Colquhoun (76th)			
Attendance: 37,730			

PORTUGUESE CUP FINAL

— May 18 —

Benfica	3	Sporting	1
(halftime 2-0)			
Scorers: Benfica - Mauro Airez (8), Joao Pinto (40, 67)			
Sporting - Carlos Xavier (84th penalty)			
Attendance: 50,000			

ITALIAN CUP FINAL SECOND LEG

— May 18 —

Florentina	2	Atalanta
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WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

— May 19 —

Real Madrid.....4	Merida.....0
Real Sociedad.....2	Athletic Bilbao.....2
Albacete.....2	Racing Santander.....2
Salamanca.....3	Sporting Gijon.....0
Compostela.....0	Sevilla.....0
Barcelona.....3	Celta Vigo.....2
Real Betis.....1	Deportivo Coruna.....0
Oviedo.....3	Valladolid.....8
Rayo Vallecano.....4	Zaragoza.....3
Valencia.....1	Espanyol.....0
Tenerife.....1	Atletico Madrid.....1

TABLE

Atletico Madrid	41	25	9	7	73	32	84
Valencia	41	26	4	11	76	50	82
Barcelona	41	22	13	6	70	37	79
Espanyol	41	20	13	8	63	38	73
Tenerife	41	19	12	10	67	54	69
Real Madrid	41	19	10	12	74	51	67
Real Betis	41	16	14	11	60	51	62
Deportivo Coruna	41	16	12	13	61	42	60
Real Sociedad	41	16	12	13	58	48	60
Compostela	41	17	7	17	47	54	58
Celta Vigo	41	12	15	14	46	50	51
Zaragoza	41	11	15	15	51	58	48
Oviedo	41	12	12	17	44	64	48
Racing Santander	41	11	14	16	45	66	47
Sporting Gijon	41	13	7	21	51	58	46
Sevilla	41	10	15	16	40	54	45
Athletic Bilbao	41	10	15	16	41	54	45
Rayo Vallecano	41	12	8	21	46	72	44
Valladolid	41	10	14	17	54	61	44
Albacete	41	10	12	19	54	79	42
Merida	41	9	12	20	34	61	39
Salamanca	41	8	9	24	52	79	33

AUSTRALIA FIRST DIVISION

— May 19 —

Rapid Wien.....4	SV Ried.....2
FC Tirol.....1	Sturm Graz.....1
GAK.....3	Vorwaerts Steyr.....2
Linzer ASK.....2	Austria Vienna.....0
SV Salzburg.....2	Admira Wacker.....2

TABLE

Rapid Vienna	33	20	6	7	63	37	66
Sturm Graz	33	19	6	8	57	30	63
FC Tirol Innsbruck	34	17	7	10	60	38	58
GAK	33	14	12	7	41	31	54
Austria Vienna	34	14	8	12	40	31	50
Linzer ASK	34	13	8	13	34	32	47
SV Ried	33	10	12	11	40	48	42
SV Salzburg	34	9	14	11	48	48	41
Admira/Wacker	34	6	13	15	32	58	31
Vorwaerts Steyr	34	0	6	28	25	87	6

WORLD CUP QUALIFIER CARIBBEAN ZONE SECOND ROUND LEG

Haiti.....1	Grenada.....0
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Scorer: Pierre Golman (51st minute)
Attendance: 2,000
Haiti wins 7-1 on aggregate and now meets Cuba in the third round.

CHINA'S DIVISION A

— May 20 —

Beijing Guo'an.....1	Guangzhou Apollo.....0
Sichuan Quanzhen.....2	Shenzhen.....1
Guangdong Hongyuan.....1	Dalian Wanda.....1
Shanghai Shenhua.....3	Yanbian Hyundai.....0
Tianjin Samsung.....1	Jinan Taishan.....1
Guangzhou Songri.....2	Chinese Army.....1

TABLE

Dalian Wanda	6	4	2	0	8	2	14
Shanghai Shenhua	6	4	1	1	14	6	13
Guangzhou Apollo	6	3	2	1	10	4	11
Beijing Guo'an	6	3	1	2	9	7	10
Chinese Army	6	2	3	1	10	6	9
Sichuan Quanzhen	6	2	3	1	8	7	9
Guangdong Hongyuan	6	1	4	1	4	6	7
Jinan Taishan	6	1	3	2	7	7	6
Guangzhou Songri	6	1	3	2	3	6	6
Yanbian Hyundai	6	0	3	3	6	11	3
Shenzhen	6	0	3	3	1	5	3
Tianjin Samsung	6	0	2	4	3	14	2

Cantona out of Euro 96

Eric Cantona has been left out of the French squad for the European championships which start in England next month.

French manager Aime Jacquet, who announced his 22-strong squad today, said he did not want to break up a winning team by bringing back the controversial Manchester United star.

Cantona, who led Manchester United to the double this season, has been cold-shouldered by Jacquet since his infamous kung-fu attack on a Crystal Palace hooligan 15 months ago.

The Frenchman's brilliant club comeback from his eight-month ban sparked off a furious debate in France over whether or not he should be restored to the international squad.

Even Sir Bobby Charlton joined the fray.

"I've seen France and they are a good side even without Eric - but they would be a better team with him."

"They will do well but I can't see them winning the European Championship without that little bit extra which Eric provides," said the former Manchester United star.

But Jacquet, who remains unbeaten in his last 20 internationals, refused to bow to the calls for 'King Eric's' restoration.

"Since we have been without Cantona a new generation has arrived. A new style been born," explained the French manager recently.

"Everybody is on the same wavelength. My group is strong, motivated and very ambitious. Events kept

Eric Cantona off the pitch for a very long time. During this period the French team lived on, won matches and scored goals," he added.

Instead Jacquet is sticking with the partnership of Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff.

Zidane, branded as the new Platini, came into the French side in spectacular fashion two years ago. A goal down against Czechoslovakia, the Bordeaux player came on as a substitute and scored twice.

Djorkaeff was voted French football of the year in 1995 and this season helped Paris St Germain win the European Cup Winners Cup.

France will have three warm-up matches before Euro 96 - Finland, Germany and Armenia.

Their opening Championship match will be against Romania on June 10. French squad:

Goalkeepers - Fabien Barthez (Monaco), Bernard Lama (Paris-SG), Bruno Martini (Montpellier).

Defenders - Jocelyn Angloma (Turin), Laurent Blanc (Barcelona), Marcel Desailly (AC Milan), Eric Di Meco (Monaco), Frank Leboeuf (Strasbourg), Bixente Lizarazu (Bordeaux), Alain Roche (Paris-SG), Lilian Thuram (Monaco).

Midfield - Didier Deschamps (Juventus), Vincent Guerin (Paris-SG), Christian Karembeu (Sampdoria), Sabri Lamouchi (Auxerre), Corentin Martins (Auxerre), Reynald Pedros (Nantes), Zinedine Zidane (Bordeaux).

Strikers - Youri Djorkaeff (Paris-SG), Christophe Dugarry (Bordeaux), Patrice Loko (Paris-SG), Mickael Madar (Monaco)



Eric Cantona: Will not be seen in the French strip next month.

CRUYFF SACKED

Johan Cruyff was dismissed as coach of Barcelona after eight years in charge at the Nou Camp stadium, a club official said.

Former England manager Bobby Robson will take over Barcelona, vice-president Joan Gaspart said after a three-hour meeting with Cruyff.

The Dutchman led Barcelona to the club's only European Cup in 1992 and took four successive league titles — three of them won in the last game of the season — with a side that became known as the dream team.

Despite two lean years Cruyff looked set to stay on for another season after reaching an unofficial agreement with club president Jose Luis Nunez at the end of April.

But a string of poor results on the field, together with criticism of management finally cost Cruyff his place at the club.



Johan Cruyff: Won Barca's only Champions Cup.

Robson at Barca

Former England manager Bobby Robson (right) last week agreed a two-year deal with Catalan giant Barcelona worth an estimated \$A1.51 million a year.



Robson, 63, who has won championships in Holland and Portugal since standing down as England manager after the 1990 World Cup in Italy, had earlier revealed he was leaving his current job in charge of Porto to replace outgoing Barca coach Johan Cruyff.

Robson, who has led Porto to two straight Portuguese championships, explained: "I am signing a two-year contract with Barcelona."

"Then I will bow out of football. But what a way for me to go as manager of one of the really great clubs."

Cadena Ser radio reported that Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez, had also considered Ajax coach Louis van Gaal and Paris Saint Germain's Luis Fernandez as possible Cruyff successors, before plumping for Robson.

Robson won 20 England caps before entering management with Fulham.

He then led Ipswich to UEFA and FA Cup wins before succeeding Ron Greenwood as England manager in 1982. Four years later saw his World Cup dream smashed by Diego Maradona as England lost 2-1 to Argentina in the quarter-final in Mexico City.

He went to Italia '90 under pressure having revealed he had agreed a deal with Eindhoven following the English Football Association's refusal to renew his contract.

But his Paul Gascoigne-inspired only side reached the semi-finals, losing out to Germany in Turin on penalties.

Between leaving PSV and moving to Porto Robson also had a spell with Sporting Lisbon, who sacked him after a UEFA Cup defeat.

Last year Robson had to win a battle with cancer and was at one stage a target for Arsenal as it sought to replace George Graham as coach.

Swiss national coach Armin Heger, Joao Alves of Belenenses and Portugal's national coach Antonio Oliveira are favourites to take over at Porto.

Atletico are nearly there

Valencia maintained its late challenge for the Spanish championship with a 1-0 triumph over Espanyol last Saturday.

Leader Atletico Madrid missed the chance to seal the championship last week when it could only draw 1-1 in Tenerife, leaving Valencia two points behind with one game to play.

Atletico Madrid's Leonardo Biaggini grabbed an 88th-minute equaliser to save their blushes after Argentinian-born Spanish international striker Juan Antonio Pizzi scored his 31st of the season to put Tenerife ahead.

Atletico require a draw at home to relegation-threatened Albacete in its last match as its goal difference is far superior to Valencia's, who play Celta Vigo.

Valencia overcame the UEFA Cup qualifier Espanyol with a 62nd-minute goal from midfielder Carlos Arroyo.

Barcelona fans, meanwhile, booed club president Luis Nunez after his sacking of coach Johan Cruyff last week. Cruyff's son Jordi left the pitch in tears after Barcelona, to be coached by former England boss Bobby Robson next season, beat Celta Vigo 3-2.

The Oviedo and Valladolid match produced 11 goals, seven of them penalties. Valladolid won it 8-3, with their Croatian striker Allen Peterac scoring five goals, four of them penalties, to take his total to 21 goals for the season.

Merida and Salamanca who are relegated will be replaced by Alicante and Logrones.

2 MORE FOR KLINSMANN

In Germany, the final UEFA Cup spot, went to Hamburg, 4-1 winner in Frankfurt. Young Bosnian discovery Hasan Salihamidzic, 19, scored twice late on to take his seasons' tally to seven.

The other UEFA qualifiers from Germany are Bayern Munich, Schalke and Borussia Moenchengladbach. Bayern's Jurgen Klinsmann scored both his side's goals in a 2-2 home draw with Dusseldorf to end the season as joint top scorer with 16 goals with Karlsruhe's South African-born Sean Dundee.

Paris Saint Germain, fired by four goals from Youri Djorkaeff, ended its French season in style with a 5-1 drubbing of Bastia.

Brazilian Sonny Anderson scored twice for Monaco, giving him 21 goals for the season, the best total in the league, after his team's 3-2 win over Rennes.



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



LIBERTADORES CUP

QUARTER FINALS

River Plate of Argentina beat compatriots San Lorenzo, 2-1 in one of the Libertadores Cup quarter finals, played at San Lorenzo's "Nuevo Gasometro" Stadium, in front of 35,000 fans.

River Plate went ahead in the fourth minute when striker Hernan Crespo beat goalkeeper Oscar Passet, after a brilliant individual effort, while veteran defender Oscar Ruggeri, with a header, equalised for San Lorenzo in the 43rd.

Argentine international striker Ariel Ortega, in the 80th minute, took advantage of a defensive blunder from Oscar Passet, who couldn't control a free kick from Enzo Francescoli, and netted the winner for River Plate.

Immediately after his goal, Ortega was sent off by Argentine referee Robert Ruscio for overdoing his celebration and will be a big loss for River Plate when they face San Lorenzo in the return match, tomorrow Wednesday at River's Monumental Stadium.

Hernan Crespo, who is a member of the Argentine Olympic team, coached by his mentor, Daniel Alberto Passarella, will be transferred to Italian club Parma for a reported \$US4,000,000 while Ariel Ortega could go to Napoli.

Francescoli, Crespo, Ortega and Juan Pablo Sorin were outstanding for River Plate.

SAN LORENZO: Oscar Passet, Mario Escudero (Ortega Sanchez 85), Oscar Arevalo, Oscar Ruggeri, Damian Manusovich, Roberto Monserrat, Fernando Galatto, Claudio Rivadero, Paulo Silas, Javier Arbarelo (Esteban Gonzalez 70), Claudio Biaggio.

Coach: Hector Veira.

RIVER PLATE: German Burgos, Hernan Diaz (Corti 89), Guillermo Rivarola, Juan Gomez, Juan Pablo Sorin (Gabriel Cedres 46), Matias Almeyda, Leonardo Escudero, Enzo Francescoli, Ariel

Ortega, Hernan Crespo (Amato 83).

Coach: Ramon Diaz.

GREMIO BEATS CORINTHIANS

Libertadores Cup champions, Gremio of Brazil, continued its march towards another crown, after a 3-0 win over compatriots Corinthians of Sao Paulo, in the all Brazilian derby, played at Corinthians' home ground of Morumbi Stadium, in front of 32,000 spectators.

It was a confirmation of Gremio's quality against a team who couldn't cope with the pressure and the aerial power of the team from Porto Alegre. While Corinthians dominated for most of the game, but couldn't break a very solid and disciplined visitor's defense, Gremio was lethal in the counter attack.

Gremio's top scorer, Jardel, opened the account in the 15th minute with a perfect header, and netted a second goal, also with a header, in the 60th, while midfielder Paulo Nunes took advantage of a bad defensive mistake from Corinthians' sweeper Alexandre Lopes to score for Gremio, in the 45th, with a soft shot.

The match was interrupted for 28 minutes during the first half because of a floodlight failure.

Gremio's midfielder Dinho was sent off in the 69th minute for a second bookable offence.

CORINTHIANS: Ronaldo, Cris, Celio Silva, Alexandre Lopes, Silvinho, Bernardo, Ze Elias, Souza (Tupazinho), Marcelinho Carioca, Edmundo, Leonardo (Gibson).

Coach: Eduardo Amorim.

GREMIO: Dandrei, Arce, Rivarola, Luciano, Roger, Dinho, Goiano, Ailton (Emerson), Carlos Miguel, Paulo Nunes (Rodrigo), Jardel (Joao Antonio).

Coach: Luiz Felipe Scolari.

The second leg will be played tomorrow, Wednesday, at Gremio's Olympic Stadium of Porto Alegre.

UNIVERSIDAD DEFEATED BARCELONA

Chilean champion, Universidad de Chile defeated Barcelona of Ecuador, 2-0, in a match played at Santiago's National Stadium, in front of 55,000 fans, and is favourite to qualify for the Libertadores Cup semi-finals.

The "students" secured the victory in the last 13 minutes of the second half through goals scored by Chilean international striker Marcelo Salas in the 77th and midfielder Victor Hugo Castaneda three minutes later.

Universidad's young striker Rodrigo Golberg suffered a severe knock on his head during the game, and could be out of action for several weeks. According to unconfirmed sources, Golberg has a serious cervical injury that could end his football career.

UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE: Sergio Bernabe Vargas, Cristian Castaneda, Ronald Fuentes, Cristian Mora, Pablo Galdames, Luis Musrri, Victor Castaneda, Esteban Valencia, Leonardo Rodriguez (Luis Abarca 87),

Marcelo Salas (Jose Luis Sanchez 77), Rodrigo Golberg (Walter Silvani 60).

BARCELONA: Carlos Morales, Alsivar, Montano, Noriega, Quinones, Morales, Carabli Gilson, Mekanaky, Usuriaga, Alfaro Moreno.

The second leg will be played at Barcelona's home ground of Guayaquil.

DRAW IN THE COLOMBIAN DERBY

Three times Libertadores Cup runners-up, America of Cali, and Junior of Barranquilla, drew 1-1, in the all Colombian derby, played at Barranquilla's Robert Melendez Stadium, in front of 25,000 spectators.

Wilson Perez, opened the score for America in the 25th minute and Colombian international striker Ivan Valenciano equalised for the home team in the 55th. Valenciano missed a penalty kick in the 47th.

America was the more aggressive team in the first 45 minutes, controlling the midfield through the efforts of Anthony De Avila and Henry Zambrano while Junior dominated the game in the second half with a strong display from Victor Pacheco.

The return match will be played, tomorrow Wednesday, at America's home ground at Cali.

In Sao Paulo: Corinthians (Brazil) 0 Gremio (Brazil) 3 (halftime 0-2)

Scorers: Jardel (15th and 60th minutes), Paulo Nunes 45th

Attendance: 31,100.

In Buenos Aires: San Lorenzo (Argentina) 1 River Plate (Argentina) 2 (1-1)

Scorers: San Lorenzo — Oscar Ruggeri (42nd)

River Plate — Hernan Crespo (3rd), Ariel Ortega (80th)

Attendance: 30,000.

In Santiago: Universidad de Chile (Chile) 2 Barcelona (Ecuador) 0 (0-0)

Scorers: Marcelo Salas (77th), Victor Castaneda (80th)

Attendance: 50,000.

In Barranquilla, Colombia: Junior (Colombia) 1 America (Colombia) 1 (0-1)

Scorer: Junior — Ivan Rene Valenciano (55th)

America — Wilson Perez (26th)

Attendance: 25,000.

Diego buys box

Boca Juniors, Argentina's most popular soccer team, announced last week it would try to raise \$A25 million on the stock exchange to help buy new players to team up with Diego Maradona.

The club plans to launch an investment fund to shore up the team which is performing poorly despite big names.

"We will issue the first \$10 million and if there is strong demand we will go ahead with another 10," Boca vice-president Pedro Pompillo said.

"Everyone will be able to pitch in, whether they want to invest 100 or one million dollars."

The fund is expected to turn in a low fixed profit but Boca officials are counting on the allegiance of the club's staunch supporters to help the financially-stretched club buy new players.

Apart from Maradona, Boca's assets include international striker Claudio Caniggia and coach Carlos Bilardo, who led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title. "We will be happy to have a Boca fund on our bourse," Julio Macchi, president of the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange, said.

Boca president Mauricio Macri, who presides over the country's largest carmaker firm, took over at the club last December and has raised \$A6.25 million through luxury boxes at the stadium.

Maradona has paid \$A375,000 for a 10-year investment in one.

Boca have slipped to the middle of the table and are in disarray after losing their third successive game last Sunday.

GOALIE'S GOAL

Goalkeeper Carlos Bossio scored a last-minute goal with a header to salvage a 1-1 draw for Estudiantes against Racing Club in the Argentine championship.

Bossio abandoned his goal when Estudiantes won a corner in the 89th minute, rose above the racing Club defence and scored with a powerful header.

"It's the happiest day of my life," said Bossio, first-choice goalkeeper for Argentina's Olympic team. Juan Fleita had put Racing Club in front in the 62nd minute.

Bossio emulated Velez Sarsfield's Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, who scored from a free-kick earlier in the tournament.

SPEND GOLD TO WIN GOLD

Olympic gold medals don't come cheap.

Million dollar athletes strutting their stuff at the summer Games in Atlanta won't be counting the cost.

But accountants at work in the Brazilian Football Confederation nailed down the price tag for sporting glory today.

To win the Olympic soccer title, the world's most talented soccer nation is budgeting a cool \$A3.76 million for Atlanta, according to confederation president Ricardo Teixeira.

The sum excludes more than \$A1.25 million already spent on a pre-Olympic qualifying tournament in

Argentina, he explained, and is equal to the amount Brazil is spending on all the rest of their Olympic competitors put together.

"Part of Brazil's Olympic budget will come from the government," said Teixeira. "But football will be excluded and we will be walking on our own feet."

Brazil, which has won the World Cup, soccer's premier tournament, four times, has never won the Olympic title.

Teams will be fielded in the men's and women's tournament at Atlanta. Teixeira said player will receive "fat bonuses" if they land the Olympic title.

ARGENTINE CLAUSURA CHAMPIONSHIP

Banfield	0	Huracan	0
Belgrano	3	FC Oeste	1
Q de La Plata	3	Independiente	2
Racing Club	1	Estudiantes	1
River Plate	2	Deportivo Espanol	0
Rosario Central	1	Gimnasia de Jujuy	1
San Lorenzo	2	Lanus	3
Velez Sarsfield	4	Platense	3
Colon	1	Boca Juniors	0

TABLE

Lanus	9	6	2	1	19	8	20
Estudiantes	9	6	2	1	18	9	20
Q de La Plata	9	6	1	2	19	11	19
Velez Sarsfield	9	5	3	1	20	13	18
Racing Club	10	4	4	2	14	12	16
Boca Juniors	9	4	2	3	11	12	14
Huracan	9	3	5	1	12	9	14
Deportivo Espanol	10	3	4	3	10	9	13
Q y Esgrima Jujuy	9	4	1	4	11	17	13
Rosario Central	9	3	4	2	12	10	13
Platense	9	4	0	5	14	13	12
River Plate	9	4	0	5	17	18	12
FC Oeste	9	2	4	3	8	8	10
Colon	9	2	3	4	7	10	9
Banfield	9	2	3	4	10	10	9
Belgrano	9	2	3	4	11	13	9
Independiente	8	2	2	4	10	13	8
San Lorenzo	9	2	2	5	8	13	8
Newell's Old Boys	8	1	4	3	10	15	7
Argentinos Jnrs	9	0	1	8	4	22	1

Note: The Clausura is the second of two championships in the 1995-6 season. The teams play each other once in each and there is no overall champion.

SAO PAULO CHAMPIONSHIP

B/Ribeiro Preto	3	Rio Branco	1
Corinthians	0	Sao Paulo	0
Ferroviaria	0	Portuguesa	3
Juventus	3	Mogi Mirim	2
Palmeiras	3	Aracatuba	1
Santos	5	America/Sao Jose	3
XV de Jau	1	Guarani	1
Uniao Sao Joao	0	Novorizontino	0

TABLE

Palmeiras	10	8	1	1	31	10	25	68
Santos	10	7	1	2	36	19	22	42
Botafogo	10	6	2	2	15	10	20	32
Aracatuba	10	6	2	2	18	15	20	38
Sao Paulo	10	6	1	3	17	10	19	44
Guarani	10	5	3	2	9	6	18	27
Juventus	10	3	5	2	16	16	14	29
Rio Branco	10	3	3	4	15	20	12	29
America	10	2	5	2	14	14	11	32
Portuguesa	10	2	5	3	14	11	11	47
Corinthians	8	3	2	3	11	9	11	39
XV de Jau	10	2	3	5	9	20	9	21
Mogi Mirim	10	2	1	7	16	16	7	39
Novorizontino	9	1	3	5	8	15	6	21
Uniao Sao Joao	10	0	5	5	6	23	5	28
Ferroviaria	10	0	2	8	8	29	2	10

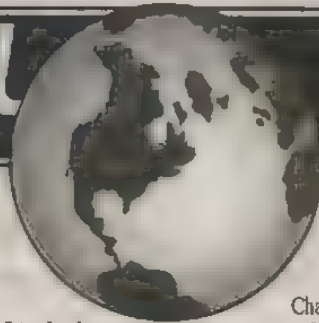
RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP

A/Rio de Janeiro	0	Botafogo	7
Barreira	3	Bangu	1
Itaperuna	1	Fluminense	2
Madureira	1	Americano	0
Olaria	0	Vasco da Gama	4
Volta redonda	0	Glamengo	1

TABLE

Botafogo	1	1	0	0	7	0	3	22
Vasco da Gama	1	1	0	0	4	0	3	30
Barreira	1	1	0	0	3	1	3	11
Fluminense	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	23
Flamengo	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	34
Madureira	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	10
Itaperuna	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	16
Americano	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	14
Volta Redonda	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	10
Bangu	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	12
Olaria	1	0	0	1	0	7	0	13
America	1	0	0	1	0	7	0	13

News From Around The Globe



KOREA WANTS TO BE 'SEOUL' HOST

South Korea said officially last week it was willing to share the host's role with Japan for the 2002 World Cup if soccer's international governing body wanted that. South Korea's World Cup bid committee said, however, that it still wanted to be the sole host for the games. South Korea was responding to a request by FIFA, the governing body, to clarify its position before FIFA chooses the host nation in a vote June 1.

South Korea and Japan are the only countries bidding for the Cup, the first to be staged in Asia.

"If the FIFA Executive Committee requests a co-hosting with Japan, we will give full consideration," Kim Sang-jin, vice president of the Korea Football Association, said.

Kim explained the contents of a message South Korea sent earlier last week to FIFA Secretary-General Sepp Blatter.

Until FIFA decides on the co-hosts issue, "it remains our position that we will continue to stick to FIFA statutes" that prohibit dual hosts for soccer's showpiece event, he said. Japan already has told FIFA that it wants to be the sole host.

GREECE SUSPENDED

Greece has been suspended from all international competition for failing to bring its rules of operation into line with the sport's international governing body, FIFA confirmed last week.

Following repeated warnings, FIFA sent out a letter on Monday, informing the Greek Football Federation (EBO) that, with immediate effect, Greek clubs and the Greek national team would not be allowed to compete internationally or be involved in any international transfers.

The suspensions will remain in effect until new statutes, which were approved by FIFA in November 1994 and deal with touchy issues such as

security, are recognised by the Greek government.

"The Greek federation has had new statutes for almost two years and has not had them approved by the government in Greece. They cannot be a member of FIFA until they do so," said FIFA spokesperson Keith Cooper.

"It's their statutes that have not been recognition to function properly." Unless the situation is quickly resolved Greek clubs could find themselves left out of European Cup competitions which begin on July 17. Greece's first World Cup qualifier is scheduled for September 1 against Bosnia.

NO BID NEWS

News Corp Ltd is not in the final bidding for TV rights to the 2002 and 2006 World Cup soccer finals, according to the list of final bidders published by the sport's global governing body FIFA.

The candidates which filed bids are ABC Television and IMG of the United States, Cable TV of Hong Kong, and CWL, Sports(US) Kirch, and TEAM of Switzerland, FIFA said.

DANISH CUP

Aarhus beat Copenhagen's Brondby 2-0 in front of a record 36,103 crowd last Wednesday to win the Danish Cup final for the ninth time.

Peter Degn scored the opening goal in the 32nd minute. Stig Toefling added the second 12 minutes later.

Brondby, leader of Denmark's Super League, had more of the game in the second half but rarely troubled the Aarhus defence.

RUSSIAN RB OUT

Ramiz Mamedov, regular right back for the Russian team, will miss the European Championship finals next month in England.

Mamedov, who was to celebrate his 24th birthday during the finals in June, is troubled by a persistent groin injury. The Spartak Moscow player has not responded to treatment.

He joins his Spartak team-

mate Dmitri Khlestov, the starting left back on the Russian squad, on the injured list. Khlestov broke his right leg during an indoor tournament in Germany in January.

TASSOTTI STAYS

AC Milan's veteran defender Mauro Tassotti has been persuaded to play another season.

"He said this would be his last season but Milan's president Silvio Berlusconi asked him to stay on another year," a club spokesman said last week.

Tassotti, 36, a member of

FIRST TROPHY IN 21 YEARS

Argentine international Gabriel Batistuta helped Fiorentina to its first trophy in 21 years last Saturday with the last goal in a 2-0 defeat of Atalanta in the second leg of the Italian Cup final.

The cup, the first important prize for the Florence side since it last won the cup in 1975, also delighted Roma and Parma fans whose teams both qualified for the UEFA Cup competition as a result of the 3-0 aggregate win.

The Fiorentina players, who won the home leg 1-0 earlier this month, took time to assert themselves in a hostile Bergamo stadium but defender Lorenzo Amoroso broke through with the opening goal in the 48th minute and Batistuta sealed the win in the 61st.

"Fiorentina has not won anything for so long, at last we are bringing something back to Florence," said coach Claudio Ranieri,

celebrating the historic victory. "The lads have had a great season, this is their reward at last."

Batistuta, the top scorer in the cup competition this season, said he was delighted for his team-mates.

"They deserved it. Twenty-one years is so long to wait," the striker said. "I'm really happy. They deserved it. What makes me most happy is seeing my team-mates celebrating."

The match was overshadowed by violence between rival supporters who clashed inside and outside the ground.

Several fans from both clubs were hurt after they started throwing bottles and fire crackers at each other in the northern city's stadium.

Two security officials were slightly injured as police fired tear gas to keep the supporters apart.



Gabriel Batistuta: Top scorer in the Italian Cup competition.

TEAM SACKED

Gor Mahia, Kenya's reigning soccer champion and one of the best-known clubs in Africa, has sacked all its players after a series of poor performances, club chairman James Ogoa announced last week.

Ogoa said his executive committee had taken the unprecedented decision on disciplinary grounds, "because the players had become so unruly that they have refused to turn up for training as well as refusing to sign professional contract forms which they should have completed three months ago."

Ogoa said his committee had given the players until next Monday to apply for reinstatement.

The club has won only one of the 10 matches it has so far played this season and is lying in 16th position in the 18-team premier league.

RED STAR'S CUP

Red Star Belgrade won the Yugoslav Cup when it beat Partizan Belgrade 3-1 (halftime 1-0) in the second leg of the final last week.

Red Star won 6-1 on aggregate and the crowd for the second leg was 25,000.

NOTHING FOR BARCA

Barcelona will finish its second successive season without a trophy after being held to a 1-1 draw by Espanyol and having two of its players sent off in the Catalan derby game last Wednesday.

HOOGLIGANS 96

The head of Germany's Football Intelligence Unit said last week that up to

1,000 hard-core hooligans were heading for England to wreak havoc at the European Championships next month.

Michael Endler said he was powerless to stop them. "We cannot use the fact that they are known hooligans to prevent them travelling to England," he told BBC Television.

Sixteen European nations are competing in Euro 96 which starts on June 8. The final at London's Wembley stadium is on June 30.

"The English hooligans are always considered number one in Europe. So it is obligatory for our German hooligans to go to England and come back with photos and newspapers to help their reputation on the local scene," he said.

FRANCE '98 EMBLEM UNVEILED

A cartoon portrayal of France's national emblem — the rooster — was unveiled last week as the 1998 World Cup mascot.

The blue, white and red rooster with a big yellow beak and a wide grin "is a veritable animated personality that reunites in one image France, soccer and joie de vivre", the France 98 World Cup organising committee said in a statement.

The bird still doesn't have a name. The organising committee will conduct a survey this autumn to select one that's popular among the French and at the same time easy to pronounce for foreigners.

The World Cup, the most lucrative and most watched single sporting event in the world, is held every four years. Brazil won the last World Cup, staged in the United States in 1994.

"The role of the mascot is to personify in the eyes of the entire world the 1998 World Cup and its values," the organising committee said.

Its role also is to make money for France 98 and the 16th World Cup in the form of toys, T-shirts and stuffed rooster dolls.

FANATISM LEADS TO TURMOIL IN TURKEY

Leading Turkish players and coaches appealed to their supporters to tone down their fanaticism, which has led recently to serious woundings, killings and suicides after big matches.

The situation in Turkey, whose team will play in the European championship finals this year for the first time, was underlined by a full page of letters published in the liberal Yeni Yuzyl daily, in which the five condemned the violence they said made coaching and playing for big teams a nightmare.

Fenerbahce's Aykut Kocaman wrote of the pangs of conscience he

felt for scoring against Trabzonspor to take his team ahead of the league leaders last week after hearing that Trabzonspor fans had hanged themselves following their match.

"You know what my 82nd-minute goal changed? Simply the positions of two teams," Kocaman wrote.

"If I had not scored that goal, I'm 99 percent sure I or my teammates would be in trouble..."

"Please let everyone remember soccer is a game."

Most people in Turkey, regardless of their home town,

support one of four teams — Fenerbahce, Galatasaray and Besiktas from Istanbul, plus the Black Sea team Trabzonspor.

Victories trigger violent celebrations, often with the random — sometimes fatal — firing of pistols.

Losses generate anger, and bands of fanatical supporters have been known to attack club facilities and try and lynch the "guilty" players and coaches.

"I will never forget, once we won a match 10-0 and the fans were calling us to account because we did not win 15-0," wrote Besiktas

midfielder and former national team captain Riza Calimbay.

"If you lose, you cannot go outside for a week."

After last week's Fenerbahce-Trabzonspor tie, fans stoned the Trabzonspor players' bus in anger at losing the title.

Even after smaller matches newspapers carry reports of fans wounding or even sometimes killing rival fans.

Club officials, vying for media attention, goad the fans on.

After Fenerbahce chairman Ali Sen complained recently that his team was being discriminated

against by referees, fans took to the streets after matches, chanting: "Let no one mess with us or there will be a massacre."

Trabzonspor coach Senol Gunes said the rise in soccer violence was parallel to recent political turmoil sparked by the resignation of the ruling coalition government in September.

"We (Turks) generally like to wreck, destroy and break," he wrote.

"This is true in every sphere... Given the situation at the top (of politics), soccer follows suit."

FAN KILLED

A 21-year-old soccer fan knifed while celebrating Fenerbahce's victory against Istanbulspor at the weekend died last week.

The Turkish media said Tuncay Yukselen died in hospital after an attack by suspected supporters from a rival team the night before, when he was celebrating Fenerbahce's almost certain league championship.

Four other fans with him were also knifed, but their wounds were not serious.

UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWN UNDER

QUICK
ONE-TWO

WITH
MICKY
BROCK

of the UK
Soccer
Supporters

PO Box 50, Kingsway West, NSW 2204
Tel & Fax: (02) 554-3806



It seems that congratulations are in order once again.

Obviously one must applaud the success of Manchester United on achieving a magnificent "double double" this term and to their "Player of the Year", Eric Cantona.

No matter what your feelings about the man, as a player he is unsurpassed in the English game at this time. Since arriving at Leeds United in time for the 1989/90 season, he has not finished outside of the top two places, winning four championship medals in that time.

It tends to remind you of the great Liverpool sides of the 70s and 80s and with the youngsters coming through at Old Trafford. What more can they go on to do?

United will have to buy in the off-season for a couple of reasons. Firstly, the lads who came through this term were a bit of an unknown quantity on the big stage and perhaps

got away with a lot more than would usually be expected. All credit to them of course but the Premiership defenders etc will be awake to them next time out.

Secondly, I, like many others, could not possibly conceive this being another "double year" for the club. Having lost Kanchelskis, Hughes and Ince together with the sidelining of Cantona. No-one could see what was to unfold. As late as early this year Newcastle held a handy lead at the top before the wheels fell off. Cantona did come back with a vengeance and although no-one can single-handedly guide a team to such triumphs, if ever there was a case against this argument, he is surely it.

It speaks volumes that the man has come back from adversity, kept his cool and let the ball do his talking. If he were not the role-model you wanted for your kids last term, this season he most

certainly is.

His temperament has been outstanding, his guile overwhelming and his attitude and skills left nothing to be desired. Of all the imported players, the name of Eric Cantona has to be the most significant in the annals of the English game bar none!

But what went wrong with Liverpool in the final? Simply, too many of their players just did not perform to the highest standards. "Digger" Barnes was nowhere for much of the game. McManaman wasn't on top form, McAteer was patchy. Fowler didn't look comfortable etc and so the list goes on.

United came out fighting, wanted to win with a passion and it showed. The "double double" should be a testament to a thrilling football team, stylish play at times and hard fought wins when needed. A record that should stand for many, many years to come and quite rightly so.

Love 'em or hate 'em, you can't ignore them and they got their just rewards on 11th May. Very well done gents.

◆◆◆
Congratulations to Bill Turner too. A look at the 1996 Handbook makes you realise just how much hard work goes on behind the scenes to make

Lesser clubs given a mention

the "Bill Turner Commonwealth Bank Cup" the competition it is.

Given that this competition is aimed at players of 15 years and under and began with a mere 34 schools taking part in 1979, this year will see over 700 teams take part, an astronomical increase in less than 20 years, proving the popularity of the game often referred to as "Wog Ball". (Anyone doubting the code will become the No.1 sport in Australia only has to look at the figures surely?).

The Handbook consists of some 72 pages in all and is packed with relevant details about the competition through the years and carries messages from all kinds of administrators within the game: David Woolley (Chief Exec Soccer Australia), R A Perkins (CBA Gen Man), Terry Hampton (Snr Co-ordinator), the Directors and President of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation and so on. Mr Woolley states in

his message that: Soccer Australia has been monitoring the growth, the administration and the quality of playing standards of this enormously popular competition".

A fine sentiment but the question must be asked: Once the players reach the age of 16 or 17, there are limited avenues of choice for them to take.

There are simply not enough clubs for them to continue in. Having said that, as you follow any career path, the options are going to narrow significantly but these potential players are being lost to Rugby League, Union and in some cases, AFL.

The youth policy of the governing body must take steps to ensure that enough channels are open so future players do not "slip through the net" and that will involve spending time and money.

Virtually anything can be attained with that phrase but it's not quite that simple.

Hopefully, Soccer Australia have a blue-print in mind that they will initiate as the A League expands.

Signs are plentiful that this local domestic season has been a great success. Standards have been set this term that were unheard of in recent years. There is a far greater air of fulfillment doing the rounds and the optimism of a brighter future looms large. The big disappointment was SA not making more waves when the "super League" circus was in town.

Soccer Australia needed to advertise the sport on the national network TV companies — 7, 9 and 10. Much as the commercial offerings on SBS are a start, here you are preaching to the converted. More must also be made of the print media too. Little or no coverage of the local scene is the norm and that must change quickly.

With the second largest football tournament in the

world taking place in Australia in the year 2000 — the Olympic Games — the profile of soccer in this country must be raised significantly.

Of course, this is not just a job for soccer Australia and will need the voice of all supporters, regardless of background. Fragmented voices can easily be swept under the carpet but a united one is difficult to ignore. Just a thought...

◆◆◆
It's been muted throughout the season that we've concentrated mainly on the "bigger clubs" without giving mention to those of a "lesser nature" shall we say. We'll have to rectify that immediately:

West Ham, Bolton, Livingston, Ross County, Brighton, Falkirk, West Bromwich Albion, Alloa Athletic.

There you go then if I've missed anyone out, you will let me know won't you?

A 'stroll' for England

Darren Anderton marked his return to international duty after a long injury lay-off with two well-taken goals as England's preparations for Euro 96 continued with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Hungary today.

Anderton, 22, who missed eight months of the season with a groin injury and last played for England last June, scored after 39 and 63 minutes.

Skipper David Platt received a lucky rebound for the other goal after 53 minutes — his 27th international strike — as the home side easily defeated an uninspired Hungarian team, a pale shadow of the one that in 1953 won 6-3 to become the first overseas side to beat England at home.

While Anderton's performance — and that of debutant Jason Wilcox — gave England coach Terry Venables something to smile about, so did the return for the last 14 minutes of Wilcox's Blackburn team-mate Alan Shearer.

Shearer did not end his 20-month international goal drought, but his appearance, just four weeks after a groin operation, augurs well for England's Euro 96 plans.

The one black spot for the host on an otherwise

satisfactory afternoon was an 11th minute injury to central defender Mark Wright, who came off with damaged ligaments in his right knee.

Wright was injured in the last warm-up match before the 1992 European championship and looks set to miss out again.

England, showing four changes from the side that

drew 0-0 with Croatia last month, was never threatened by the visitors who did not have a single effort on target until the 52nd minute when Attila Plokai tested goalkeeper David Seaman with a well-struck long-range free-kick.

England went close to scoring after just 90 seconds when Wilcox, with almost his first touch, headed

against the bar.

The opening goal came when Teddy Sheringham, who also hit the bar with a superb curling shot in the second half, crossed from the left. Les Ferdinand missed the ball, but Anderton prodded it home from close range.

Platt scored when a quickly taken free-kick by Paul Ince rebounded off goalkeeper Zolt Petry into Platt's path and over the line, and the third came when Anderton's angled shot from 10 yards was helped over the line and into the roof of the net by a Hungarian defender.

Venables, using five substitutes, brought on goalkeeper Ian Walker and Sol Campbell for their international debuts after 66 minutes, and with Sheringham and Anderton on the field that meant that four players from Venables' former club Tottenham were on the pitch.

Hungary, which last beat England during the 1962 World Cup, tested Walker once before the final whistle, but ended the afternoon beaten by England for the ninth time in their last 10 matches and without scoring a goal in seven of them.

Rangers double

Rangers won the Scottish FA Cup final at Hampden Park last Saturday with an emphatic 5-1 victory over Hearts thanks to a hat-trick from Gordon Durie and two goals from Danish international Brian Laudrup.

Rangers' win completed a League and Cup double — their 10th trophy since manager Walter Smith took over in 1991.

Brian Laudrup crowned the season for the champions with a goal either side of halftime, his second following a mistake by Hearts' French goalkeeper Gilles Rousset.

Durie's treble allowed Rangers to coast home as skipper Richard Gough lifted the Cup for the 27th time in the Ibrox club's history.

Hearts had arrived at Hampden with realistic hopes of ending a 34-year wait for a trophy but left it with only tears and a 76th-minute consolation goal from John Colquhoun.

Everything went wrong for manager Jim Jefferies and his team with captain Gary Locke, the youngest-ever Scottish Cup final skipper, stretchered off after only six minutes.



Gordon Durie: Hat-trick for 'Gers'.



Darren Anderton: Scored two in his return.

'Moneychester' United raking it in

All-conquering English club Manchester United are looking forward to reaping rich financial rewards after completing the coveted league and FA Cup double.

The 1-0 FA Cup final win over Liverpool made United the first team to do the double twice and will help ensure that the coffers remain full at Britain's most profitable club — dubbed "Moneychester United" by jealous rivals.

Finance Director Robin Launders said that the cup triumph was the icing on the cake of another successful season.

"The direct benefit of the cup win will be felt in season ticket sales and brand value when talking to potential partners," he said.

Season ticket sales, which stood at 30,000 this season, will be boosted by the completion of a new stand which will take capacity at United's old Trafford Stadium to 55,000.

Launders refused to reveal the target figure for



Season ticket sales but said the club would limit them to a maximum of around 10,000.



Old Trafford season ticket sales limited to 'only' 40,000.

Launders stressed that United's league success was the real money-spinner as it won the club a place in the European Champions' League next season.

"Getting into Europe is like winning a big contract and the Champions' League is the biggest of the three European competitions," said Launders.

he said that United had earned around \$A6.67 million from participation in the Champions' League two years ago.

That campaign ended in disappointment when United failed to qualify for the final knock-out stages of the tournament.

Analysts said a longer run in the competition could

earn United as much as \$A19.29 million next year.

Shares in United, one of three English clubs with a full listing on the London stock Exchange, added eight pence (A15c) to \$A6.64 in

Gate revenue

quiet trade last week.

But dealers said that this season's historic success would further fuel sales of videos, T-shirts and replica kits — an area which has seen massive expansion in recent years.

Merchandising sales grew to \$A44.8 million in United's 1995 financial year, outstripping gate revenue.

Profit before transfer fees and tax totalled \$A31million last year on turnover of over \$A114 million.

United's popularity with fans across Britain makes it hard for other clubs to live with them off as well as on the pitch.

"I don't think any club can mount a serious challenge to their financial position," said Dale Thorpe, who analyses the sports industry for accountancy firm Deloitte-Touche.

"If you look at where their income comes from, only a very small percentage will be from people in the Manchester area. People from all over Britain are attracted to the club."

Premier League Team

PROFILES

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Kevin Pressman (G) — Born 1967 Fareham. Pressman started as an apprentice at Wednesday and has made it through the ranks into the first team. He did have one loan spell at Stoke City.

Chris Woods (G) — Born Boston (Eng) 1959. Apprentice at Nottingham Forest until he moved on to QPR where he made his first senior appearance. Went to Norwich on loan before signing for them on full terms. Over 200 league appearances later moved to Rangers in Scotland before returning to England with Sheffield Wednesday. Former England keeper.

Peter Atherton (D) — Born Wigan 1970. Trainee at Wigan Athletic where he was one short of 150 league games. Then played 114 games for Coventry before moving to Sheffield Wednesday. Has scored two goals in 300 league games.

Steve Nicol (D) — Born Irvine 1961. Left Ayr Utd for Liverpool where he played over 350 times in total. Then joined Notts County as player coach before rejoining the PL this season with Sheffield Wednesday. Former Scottish international.

Jon Newsome (D) — Born Sheffield 1970. Was a trainee at Wednesday but after seven senior appearances departed for Leeds and then Norwich before returning to Wednesday this season.

Adam Poric (M) — Born London 1973. Left St George for Sheffield Wednesday.

Graham Hyde (M) — Born Doncaster 1970. From the youth ranks at Wednesday.

Mark Pembroke (M) — Born Merthyr Tydfil 1970. Was a trainee at Luton and played in the senior side before moving to big spending Derby. Joined Wednesday this season. Welsh player.

John Sheridan (M) — Born Stretford 1964. Came from local football to join Leeds where he played over 200 games. Then moved to Forest but before appearing once in the senior side was off again, this time to Sheffield Wednesday.

Reggie Blinker (M/F) — Joined Sheffield Wednesday from Feyenoord in March 96. Another foreign star now making his name in England as well.

Chris Waddle (F) — Born Hedworth 1960. Left Tow Law T for Newcastle before having lengthy spells at Tottenham and Marseille. Returned to England with Wednesday. Former England star.

Mark Bright (F) — Born Stoke 1962. Left Leek Town for Port Vale before joining Leicester City. He then moved to Crystal Palace and helped in their promotion pushes with Ian Wright. Then joined Sheffield Wednesday.

Lee Briscoe (F) — Born Pontefract 1975. Also a trainee at Wednesday.

Guy Whittingham (F) — Born Evesham 1964. Left Yeovil for Portsmouth where he became a star. Left for Aston Villa in search of PL play. Went on loan to Wolves and then transferred to Sheffield Wednesday.

David Hirst (F) — Born Barnsley 1967. Joined his local team as an apprentice and made it through to the first team. Moved to Sheffield Wednesday, where injury all but destroyed a long England career.

Darko Kovacevic (F) and **Dejan Stefanovic (D)** both Yugoslav internationals who moved to Wednesday from Red Star Belgrade in December '95.

Mark Degryse — Born 1966. Belgian international who joined Wednesday at the beginning of this season on a three year contract.

David Pleat is manager. Amongst his managerial spells are two at Luton and a brief stay at Tottenham that ended under controversial circumstances.



Chris Waddle: A misnomer if ever there was one - he still 'glides' past defenders.

RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM GROUND ADDRESS	WIMBLEDON	WOLVERHAMPTON	WREXHAM
	Selhurst Park South Norwood London SE25 6PY	Molineux Wolverhampton WV14QR	Racecourse Ground Mold Road Wrexham LL12AN
CAPACITY	26,500	28,525	11,881
RECORD GATE	30115 (1993)	61315 (1939)	34445 (1957)
DEBUT	1991	1889	1900
BY RAIL	Selhurst, Norwood Jn Thornton Heath (BR)	Wolverhampton	Wrexham General
COMMENTS	The sooner they find some supporters and their own ground the better. Great ground - for Crystal Palace!	Fantastic, simply awesome. The work on this ground is amazing and is the best ground outside the Premier League.	Fairly poor by today's standards. Needs a fair bit of work done on it but its not the worst ground around.
ACCESSIBILITY RATING/5	3	3.1/2	2.1/2
OVERALL GROUND RATING/10	6 (for Wimbledon's purposes)	9	5.1/2

BENFICA WINS CUP

Benfica won the Portugal Cup last Saturday with a 3-1 victory over cross-town rival Sporting Lisbon in a game marred by the death of a Sporting fan in a firecracker accident.

Tension was high from the beginning as 50,000 fans packed into Lisbon's Estadio Nacional to see the first Portugal Cup final in nine years between the two teams.

Sporting had been in good form in recent weeks at the end of an otherwise disappointing 1995-96 season. But the Lions were slow at the outset, while Benfica got off to a fast and feisty start.

In the eighth minute, Benfica put immense pressure on Sporting goalkeeper Paulo Costinha, who stopped a first long shot and a short second attempt to score.

But the ball slipped out of Costinha's hands and Benfica's Argentine striker Mauro Airez tapped the ball in for the first goal.

In the 40th minute, Benfica midfielder Bruno Caires skillfully passed the ball to captain and star striker Joao Pinto, who broke away from Sporting defence and raced down the field to score the Reds' second goal.

Pinto came through with the third goal in the 67th minute, heading in a head pass from Airez.

Sporting scored its consolation goal in the 86th minute with a converted penalty by midfielder Carlos Xavier.

The firecracker that killed the 40-year-old man was fired shortly after the first goal.

Following the death of the Sporting fan, federation officials decided to cancel the cup awarding ceremony for security reasons.

AZZURRI'S MIS- FORTUNE

An Italian fortune teller noted for his soccer soothsaying skills said last week only he could save the country from certain defeat at next month's European championship finals in England.

"Mago" Nicola, who says newspapers say successfully predicted that little-known Igor Protti of Bari would be top scorer in serie A this season, blamed coach Arrigo Sacchi for Italy's "bleak future".

"Italy won't win the championships because of bad coaching decisions," Nicola told reporters in this southern town.

He said Sacchi had been listening to a rival soothsayer too much. "I'm not jealous, it's just that I think he should listen to more opinions."

But a remedy exists. "If Sacchi wants, I can advise him," he said. "After all, this team is in everyone's hearts, including mine."



Rudi Voeller: The German World Cup winner has decided to hang up his boots.

KAISERS GO DOWN

Kaiserslautern, the 1991 champion, was relegated from the German first division last weekend after a 1-1 draw at Bayer Leverkusen, the first time the club has lost its place in the Bundesliga since it started in 1963.

Eintracht Frankfurt and Uerdingen were already doomed to second division football next season.

SECOND KEEPER OK

German coach Berti Vogts was given a brief scare last weekend when his second goalkeeper for next month's European Championship, Oliver Kahn of Bayern Munich, was taken to hospital with a suspected collarbone fracture.

But Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt, Bayern's doctor, later said

Kahn had suffered a bruised shoulder and no fracture and that his trip to England was not threatened.

Kahn was substituted at halftime in the last Bundesliga round today and was taken to a hospital for checks.

Earlier this week, Vogts was forced to drop his third-choice goalkeeper Stefan Klos of Borussia Dortmund because of a broken hand and call up Oliver Reck of Werder Bremen.

ROBSON FOR CRUYFF

Johan Cruyff, dismissed as manager of Barcelona after eight years in charge, said he would continue to live in the Catalan capital but would cut his links with the game.

"I want to do something else unrelated to football (and) involving less pressure than before," said the 49-year-old Dutchman, who led Barca to four league titles and its only European

Cup triumph in 1992.

Cruyff, who is to be replaced by former England manager Bobby Robson, currently with Porto, meanwhile slammed Barcelona for showing a "lack of respect" to the club's fans in showing him the door.

ANOTHER 4 FOR FERGIE

Manchester United has agreed a new deal until 2000 with record-breaking manager Alex Ferguson following its English league and Cup double this month.

Ferguson, 54, was looking for a six-year deal to take him through to retirement, but has now accepted a four-year contract.

He has already been at the club for a decade.

MARSEILLE ARE BACK!

Republic of Ireland striker Tony Cascarino scored his 30th goal of the season last Saturday as Olympique Marseille was promoted to the first division after a 4-1 win over Sochaux.

"I'm delighted for Marseille and its wonderful people, it's been a long season but we deserve it," said a delighted Cascarino, who is on course to finish as top scorer in the League for the second season in a row.

"I would have liked to have scored as many as last year (35) but I had five penalties last season," added the 33-year-old Irish international.

Cascarino, veteran of two World Cups, said he would like to remain at the club, despite interest from Sion in Switzerland. Having arrived on a free transfer after the 1994 World Cup, he was flown in on disgraced former owner Bernard Tapie's private jet.

"I've always said I would like to stay. Marseille is one of the great clubs, and I have enjoyed every minute of my time here," said Cascarino.

Marseille, who had missed out on promotion two weeks running, made no mistake against Sochaux in front of 27,000 supporters.

'NUISANCE' MICHEL TO GO

Former Spanish international midfielder Michel Gonzalez announced last week that he would leave Real Madrid at the end of the season.

"I feel I'm a nuisance, so the best solution is to go," said Michel who won six league titles in his 13 years with the Spanish champion.

Michel's announcement came after a meeting with Real president Lorenzo Sanz who only four months ago said there would be no problem in renewing the player's contract for another year.

AC Milan coach Fabio Capello, the man tipped to take over at the Santiago

Bernabeu stadium, is understood not to want to retain Michel's services.

KAISER'S KIDNEY PROBLEM

Franz Beckenbauer missed Bayern Munich's final game of the season and its UEFA Cup celebrations last weekend after being taken into hospital on Thursday with severe kidney pains.

Shortly after guiding Bayern to its first European trophy for 20 years with Wednesday's UEFA Cup final victory over France's Bordeaux, the 51-year-old Beckenbauer had problems with a kidney stone and was suffering from renal colic, the club said.

"There is no serious danger," Bayern spokesman Markus Hoerwick said. "It is just very painful."

Hoerwick said that Beckenbauer had to stay in hospital until yesterday (Monday) for checks and would miss the club's final league game at home to Fortuna Dueseldorf and a party for fans in Munich's city centre to celebrate the UEFA Cup victory.

AUF WIEDERSHEIN RUDI

Former German international striker Rudi Voeller hung up his boots after last weekend's relegation clash between his Bundesliga side Bayer Leverkusen and fellow strugglers Kaiserslautern.

"I could well have done without the war of nerves, the tension and the fight against relegation," the 36-year-old Voeller told reporters as he prepared to take his curtain call, ending a career which reached its pinnacle with Germany's World Cup win in 1990.

Bayer drew 1-1 which meant they survived but Kaiserslautern dropped to Division Two.

PARMA RE- STOCK

Trying to get the team on track for the next Italian league title, Parma officials announced last Friday, they have signed Italian striker Enrico Chiesa and French veteran midfielder Daniel Bravo.

Officials also told a press conference that negotiations

were in progress for acquiring Belgian defender Lilliam Thuram and a number of Latin American stars - Argentine striker Hernan Crespo and Brazilians Cafu and Rivaldo.

Although the club refused to disclose terms of Chiesa's five-year contract, soccer sources suggested that the deal amounted to about 30 billion lire (\$24.23 million - two thirds to Sampdoria as transfer fee and one third to the 25-year-old player).

Bravo, 33, moved to Parma from Paris Saint Germain.

BLANC FOR BARCA

Auxerre's French international sweeper Laurent Blanc signed for Spanish giants Barcelona last week for a fee of around \$1.88 million.

The Catalan club signed Blanc, 30, on a two-year contract, beating off interest from English champion Manchester United, Benfica and Olympique Marseille.

Blanc, formerly with Napoli in the Italian League, agreed to a cut in his wages so he could join Auxerre from former French giants Saint Etienne at the beginning of the present season.

He was a major part of their double winning team, scoring the equaliser in the Cup Final win over Nimes, and regained his place in the French national side.

GOING STRAIGHT - TO QPR

Queens Park Rangers today welcomed Ernest Saunders' interest in the club as a potential buyer as a \$19.05 million takeover battle for the relegated West London outfit gathered pace.

Rangers have signalled that former Guinness chief Saunders' controversial past will not count against him if he wishes to purchase the first division outfit. He has already contacted the club to express his interest.

QPR managing director Alan Hedges said: "We will consider any possible buyer as long as they have the club's interests at heart."

"We don't want someone who will only stay for two or three years and strip our assets during that time."

Saunders and Rangers officials are expected to meet for talks early this week.

"At present we simply don't know whether he is acting on his own behalf or representing a consortium," said Hedges. "We will find out when we begin speaking to Mr Saunders."

Saunders, 60, was sentenced to five years in prison for his part in an illegal share scheme during the controversial \$45.14 billion Guinness takeover of Distillers in 1987.

But he was released on appeal after serving 10 months when the court was told he was suffering from pre-senile dementia.



Enrico Chiesa: Will play for Parma next season.

BAD BULGAR JOINS DONS

Scottish club Aberdeen snapped up Bulgarian bad boy Ilian Kiriakov last week for (\$A758,600).

The 28-year-old international midfielder, sent off three times this season while playing with Cypriot club Anorthosis Famagusta, got more good news when he was included in Bulgaria's provisional squad for the European Championships.

Kiriakov, with 52 international caps including an appearance in the World Cup semi-finals in the United States, is expected to become the highest paid player in Aberdeen's history after agreeing a four-year contract.

"I am joining one of the top teams in Britain and am looking forward to playing at what is undoubtedly a very ambitious club," said



Kiriakov.

"The fact that so many well known players from abroad are willing to move to Scotland now shows the high standard of the game in the country.

"That's why I jumped at the chance to move here as soon as I knew of their interest and hopefully I can help Aberdeen close the gap on Rangers and Celtic."

DUNDEE UTD UP

Substitute Owen Coyle scored five minutes from the end of extra time last Thursday to earn Dundee United a 2-1 win over Partick and a place in the Scottish premier division next season.

It won the Scottish League play-off 3-2 on aggregate, condemning Partick to relegation to the first division.

Partick was within 40 seconds of preserving its premier division status when Steve Welsh headed Dundee United level 1-1 on the night and 2-2 on aggregate.

Partick had taken the lead in the second leg through an Ian Cameron penalty in the 72nd minute.

GRAHRAM NOT DELIGHTED

Former Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool manager Graeme Souness has appealed to soccer's world governing body, FIFA, saying he was fired improperly by Turkish club Galatasaray, daily Milliyet reported last week.

Terim.

Souness claims his contract was automatically extended for another year when it was not terminated by either side in March.

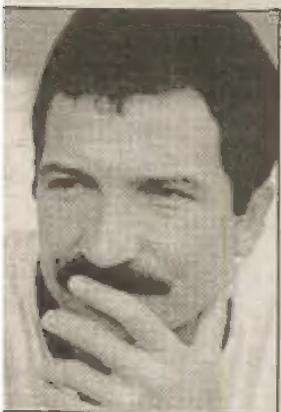
The Scottish coach said he would give up his appeal if he were paid \$A822,370 — next season's salary, Milliyet reported.

Souness' appeal apparently jeopardizes Terim's transfer.

Terim, who will coach the national team in next month's European Championships in England, was expected to take over after the tournament.

Souness was banned from the sidelines for a month by the Turkish soccer federation after he planted a large flag on the pitch after Galatasaray won the Turkish Cup in April.

The federation said Souness' act was unprofessional.



Galatasaray fired Souness last Tuesday and agreed in principle to hire Turkish national team coach Fatih

ANOTHER BRAZILIAN

English premier league club Middlesbrough announced last week it had signed Brazilian midfielder Emerson from Porto for (\$A7.59 million).

Emerson, who helped Porto win the Portuguese first division championship, joins fellow Brazilians Juninho and Branco at Middlesbrough

on a three-year contract.

Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson told a news conference at the club's Riverside Stadium: "Emerson is a top-class player who I have watched a number of times.

He is a strong tackler and a good passer of the ball."

TEL'S 27 HEAD FOR CHINA & H.K.

Gary Pallister of Manchester United looks certain to miss next month's European championship after being left out of the England squad which leaves on a short tour of China and Hong Kong this week.

Pallister missed 21 cup and league matches after Christmas but returned to the Manchester United team on April 18 and played a significant part in them winning the English cup and league double.

Although he has recovered from the back injury which sidelined him, a sciatic problem persists which means he must rest for four or five days between games.

That is of no real help to England who face a hectic programme of perhaps six matches in 22 days.

Newcastle defender Steve Howey also looks like missing out after a hamstring injury ruled him out of the final seven games of Newcastle's season. He has still not fully recovered and has also been left out of the squad for the matches against China and Hong Kong on May 23 and May 26.

Manager Terry Venables named a 27-man squad for the trip including Paul Gascoigne, who missed Saturday's friendly against

Hungary because he played for Rangers in the Scottish Cup final, Arsenal's Tony Adams and uncapped defender Ugo Ehiogu of Aston Villa, the only unexpected name in the squad.

Adams, who has played just one friendly match since injuring a knee in January, impressed in this week's training sessions and looks set to be given the chance to prove his recovery against

sighs of relief among the party, at least five players will suffer heartbreak in the next week or so when Venables must tell them they will take no part in next month's tournament.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: David Seaman (Arsenal), Tim Flowers (Blackburn), Ian Walker (Tottenham) Defenders: Gary Neville (Manchester U), Tony Adams (Arsenal), Mark Wright (Liverpool), Ugo Ehiogu (Aston Villa), Gareth Southgate (Aston Villa), Sol Campbell (Tottenham), Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Phil Neville (Manchester U).

Midfielders: Darren Anderton (Tottenham), Steve Stone (Nottingham F), Paul Gascoigne (Rangers, Scotland), Paul Ince (Internazionale, Italy), Dennis Wise (Chelsea), David Platt (Arsenal), Robert Lee (Newcastle), Jamie Redknapp (Liverpool), Jason Wilcox (Blackburn), Steve McManaman (Liverpool).

Forwards: Les Ferdinand (Newcastle), Robbie Fowler (Liverpool), Nick Barmby (Middlesbrough), Peter Beardsley (Newcastle), Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham), Alan Shearer (Blackburn).



the Hungarians on Saturday.

Ehiogu gets his chance as Venables is still concerned about the central defensive positions.

He is still worried by Adams' fitness and with Gareth Southgate only just back from injury and Mark Wright restored to the international team after almost four years' absence, Ehiogu could provide some cover.

While there were many



Tony Adams: Fit and rarin' to get back.

FREE AS A BIRD BRUCE

Zimbabwe goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, one of the players at the centre of match-fixing allegations, has been released by English premier league club Southampton.

Grobbelaar is leaving at the end of his two-year contract with the club.

Lawrie McMenemy, Southampton's director of football, said: "We have stood by Bruce during his contract, which is up at the end of June.

He has been a magnificent servant and a great professional."

The former Liverpool player made only two premier league appearances this season.

Along with two other players, John Fashanu and Hans Segers, Grobbelaar faces charges of giving or accepting money as inducements to influence the outcome of matches.

They are due back in court in January.



Bruce Grobbelaar: Released by Southampton — but not by the court, yet.

BRIDGE OVER MURKY WATERS

The battle for control of Chelsea Football Club between chairman Ken Bates and millionaire director Matthew Harding plunged into murky waters last week.

Negotiations between the two power brokers have collapsed, which is likely to mean that Harding's planned \$A19 million cash investment will not go ahead.

A statement released last week said that talks between Chelsea Village, owners of the club, and Harding — who will continue to act as a director — would not go ahead.

"The further investments and assistance by Mr Harding, which would have flowed from the agreement, will not proceed," read the official release.

The move comes just days after former Dutch international Ruud Gullit accepted the offer of player-manager following Glenn Hoddle's decision to succeed Terry Venables as England coach.

Nine and a half million of unsecured loan stock held by Harding will be now be converted into shares.

The latest twist in the long-running feud will put a

question mark over whether Gullit will be given sufficient funds to invest in top-class talent.

Italian Gianluca Vialli and Jurgen Klinsmann, the Bayern Munich striker who had a year at Tottenham, were among the likely summer targets.

Gullit appeared unaware of the stock Exchange announcement saying that Bates had effectively torn up his agreement with Harding.

But the scenario clearly did not bother a relaxed Gullit.

"All I'm interested in is that this thing is resolved as quickly as possible for the benefit of Chelsea. It has nothing to do with the team or the players, it has to do with the club," he said.



WEEKEND MATCH PROGRAM



ERICSSON CUP



GRAND FINAL

SUNDAY, MAY 26



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



V



MARCONI FAIRFIELD



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National Youth League
GRAND FINAL

WEST ADELAIDE v MARCONI FAIRFIELD

Olympic Park, Melbourne -- Kick off, 12.00pm



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